THE EDINBURGH STAR

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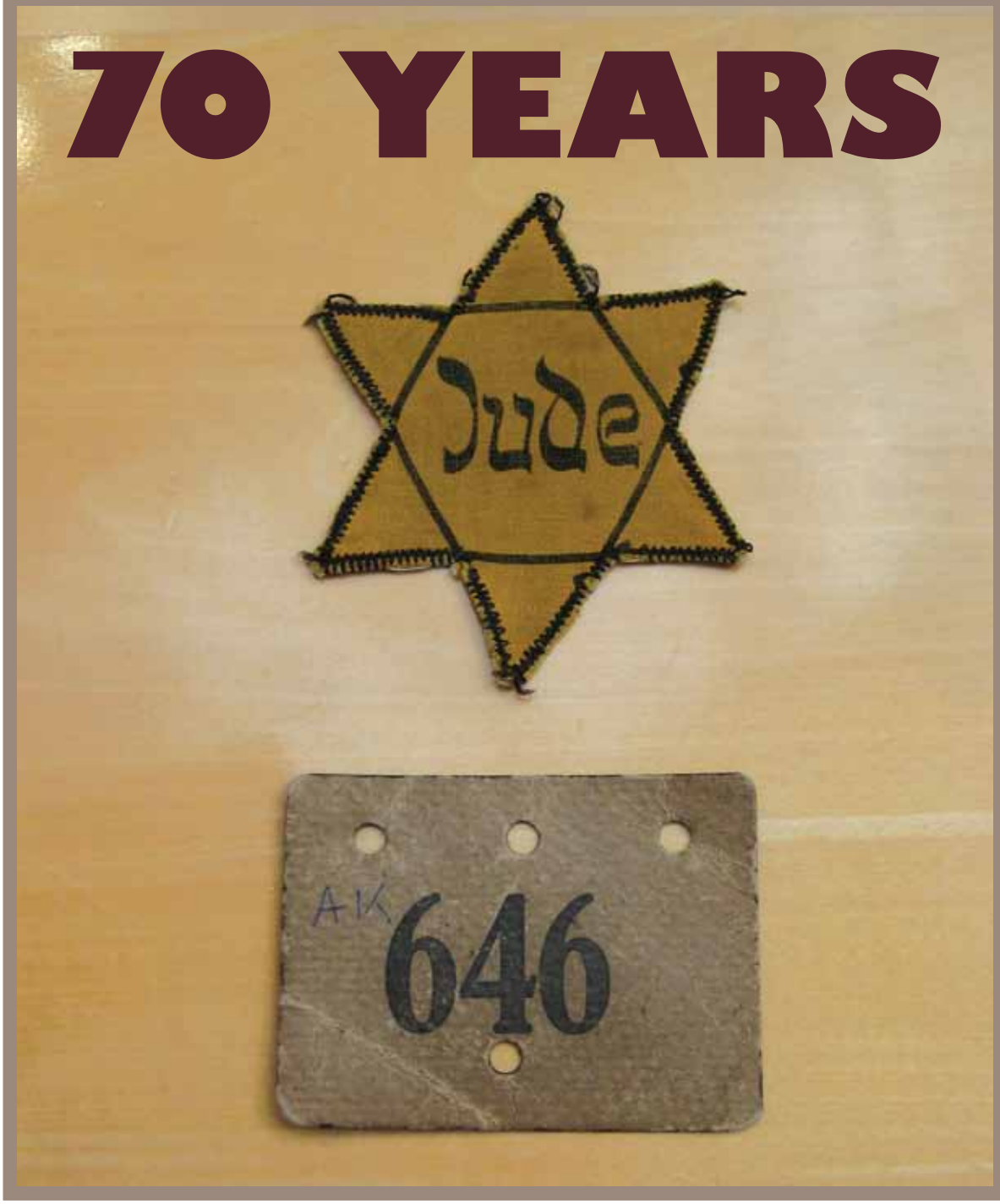

THE MAGAZINE FOR THE EDINBURGH JEWISH COMMUNITY

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THE EDINBURGH STAR

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The Edinburgh Star would like to express its appreciation to all those who support the magazine with their continued subscriptions, and all those who make donations over and above this.

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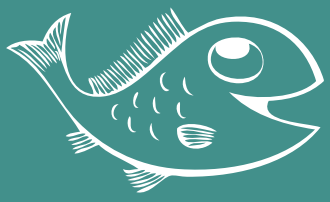

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THE EDINBURGH STAR

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Editorial

I am delighted to offer the Star's followers another bumper edition. Thanks to all our photographers, reporters and contributors as well as our advertisers for their continued support.

During the nearly 250 years or so that Jews have lived in Scotland, there has been little open anti-Semitism. Yet sadly we see the Jewish population of Scotland declining as outlined in Gillian Raab's article comparing the 2001 and 2011 Census findings. Our birth rate is poor because our children do not stay here. Some have moved to Israel. In this issue Joe Goldblatt reflects on his first visit to the Middle East where he met Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian leaders. It is not a smooth ride for Jews in Israel by any means though it is an amazing country. As Rabbi Rose comments below, many French Jews are now contemplating an exodus and Israel will welcome them gladly. On a recent visit to Jerusalem I saw the city festooned with French flags and 'Jerusalem est Charlie' slogans. But beware of over-reaction! Jo Capek's article attempts to restore some perspective but without offering much hope.

Returning to home, on Holocaust Memorial Day we marked 70 years since the liberation of Auschwitz and it was heartening to see how young people in Scotland who have met few if any Jews have embraced Holocaust remembrance and committed themselves to Holocaust education. I wish that some of the Jews who fear for their future elsewhere in Europe would decide to come to Scotland and build up our communities here. It would help us to address the problems of survival that are currently vexing the Edinburgh Jewish Community and, though with somewhat less urgency, our co-religionists in the West.

Despite dwindling numbers, our community still remains active and these pages record a range of events and activities involving every age group. Soon we will move into the season of communal Seders, Yom Ha'Atzmaut celebrations and Lag Be'Omer picnics. We still have the forces to mount these events – but it is taking an increasing level of commitment by a core group to ensure we remain vibrant. In these pages I would like to thank everyone who tries so hard to keep an active Jewish life going in Edinburgh in whatever way they can.

As we move towards Pesach, I wish everyone a Chag Kasher VeSameach and a pleasant summer.

Micheline Brannan

Pesach Message

The year since last Pesach has seen an increasing sense of unease among European Jews, with a spike in anti-Semitic incidents, including terrorist attacks against Jewish institutions.

There have been various responses to these events from the Jewish community ranging from 'we are basically ok' to 'we need to leave now!' As we recite the Haggadah, the paradigm of the Four Sons might serve as a metaphor for our dilemma. We have the wise son that sees the writing on the wall and leaves just at the right time. The wicked son thinks that actually we are at fault and if we didn't insist on Jewish schools or support Israel everyone would love us. The simple son sticks his head in the sand and hopes that everything will be all right. And the son who doesn't know how to ask? Well that's probably the majority who are stunned by events and simply not sure what to do. All of these responses were found in Egypt. The Jews after all reproached Moses for causing them to look bad to Pharaoh and constantly wondered why they had to leave Egypt. Jewish history seems to be implanted with a genetic code that causes it to repeat itself. Yet the lesson of the Seder is that despite these differing views the Jews were redeemed. May we, all four sons of us, be worthy to witness the same redemption in our time.

A Happy and Kosher Pesach
Rabbi David Rose

Board of Deputies of British Jews President's Passover message

Vivian Wineman *President The Board of Deputies of British Jews*

As I write my final Pesach message as President I reflect on a period of great challenges and achievements. The challenges are obvious; the achievements made possible with our new team, new premises and new leadership are becoming ever more so.

First within a matter of weeks there is the General Election. We at the Board have been attempting to seize on a historic opportunity to ensure our programme of Ten Commitments, that summarises our key policy asks, is adopted by as many MPs and prospective parliamentary candidates as possible. The 2015 General Election: A Jewish Manifesto has already been sent out to all selected candidates and there has been a hugely gratifying response. We have also been urging our Deputies and members of the community to join our online campaign, launched in association with We Believe in Israel. By using a new online tool you are able to enter your postcode and simultaneously write to all prospective parliamentary candidates to request their support for our Ten Commitments. We hope these efforts will result in a Parliament with MPs aware and responsive to the needs of our community.

In the meantime whilst there has never been a boring period during the last two triennia no time has been quite as challenging this. At the time of writing we have just received the report of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Antisemitism – their first since 2006. This followed the awful events in Paris and Copenhagen. The community itself has been rocked by the upsurge in antisemitic incidents which in 2014 exceeded all previous years for which records have been kept. Paris and then Copenhagen remind us all how terrorists can easily be inspired by one another.

In the face of this upsurge we have had a continuous dialogue with the Government over the measures we hope will ensure the continued safety of our community. Alongside our communal partners we have met the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, the Communities Secretary and Education Secretary. In addition we have met the Shadow Home Secretary and London's Deputy Mayor for crime and policing. It has been gratifying to see the firm response of the government and of all the mainstream political parties and particularly pleasing that the Home Secretary and Communities Secretary were prepared at very short notice to attend our plenary meeting, reassuring Deputies of their continued commitment to stand "shoulder to shoulder" with the Jewish community in the fight against antisemitism.

The Board have been at the forefront of tackling antisemitic attitudes – from politicians, the media and clerics. Yet we see also that though the level of reported antisemitic incidents was up, the proportion of violent incidents was down with only one incident of extreme violence and according to the research carried out by the Fundamental Rights Agency of the EU, the UK remains the most secure place for Jews in Europe. The APPG report mentions this as well and also specifically commends the Board's outreach to the Muslim community. Nevertheless we cannot afford to be complacent.

Antisemitism, however, is not our only problem. The campaign for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions directed against Israel is going to get stronger as will the calls for the UK to recognise a Palestinian state independent of any peace or even negotiations with Israel.

Directly but also through the Fair Play Campaign Group, we fight a constant battle against the growing anti-Israel campaign whether on campus, in the media, the unions, local authorities or anywhere else it may arise. Although some question whether the Board has a role to play on Israel, we recognise its centrality to the community and the consequent need for the community's representative body to speak out on Israel's behalf.

On the domestic side, the challenge to shechitah is growing with calls for a ban even from quarters normally sympathetic to our community. In education matters, many of our schools have come under pressure because of reasons utterly unconnected with them. We continue to challenge misunderstanding and malicious attacks with clarity and vigour.

There are however, plenty of positives for Jews in the UK. Britain is also home to a community which for its size is probably the most vital in the diaspora. Our schools are flourishing with outstanding standards and ever greater numbers of pupils. The Board through its advice and above all through Pikuach, its inspectorate, is playing an important role here. Our service to small communities, Jewish Connection, sustains a fulfilling Jewish life for the approximately 20% of the Jews of this country living in communities too small to support a minister.

Throughout the country, at cross communal events such as Jewish Book Week and Limmud, the Board has been active in making presentations and appearing at more events than ever before. The Board also continues with its work with the Jewish Living exhibition – attended by over 8,000 adults and school children in the past year alone – explaining Judaism to the outside world.

Finally we should mention our efforts to reach out to parts of the community not previously represented on the Board. We have increased substantially the representation of students and young people and are working with the Israeli community in London. The Charedi community remains largely outside the Board but we work very closely with them and by their account our relations with them have never been as good as they are now.

Pesach is our festival of freedom but it is also the defining seminal event in our history. Whatever the challenges the Board will be determined to meet them and we know that this country continues to offer benefits that few other Jewish communities boast. Of that we continue to be proud.

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Sandra and Sidney Caplan Golden Wedding

Edward Green

On 7th March 1965, the wedding took place at the Central Synagogue in Manchester between Sandra Oilberg and Sidney Caplan. It was the quickest ceremony the synagogue had ever witnessed by virtue of the fact that the heat had broken down in the building and it was snowing outside!

Both only children, Sandra and Sidney met when Sidney had been at a conference in Manchester and attended a Jewish club whilst there. Sandra had struck Sidney as not only being the tallest girl in the room but for her striking good looks. They were soon to build their own family. Their son, Andrew, the first-born, was educated at George Watson's and Strathclyde. He is a pharmacist married to Kathy. They live in Radlett and have three children, Ben who is 18, James 16 and Zoe 10.

Ian was the second born. Like Andrew he was educated at George Watson's but chose Dundee University to further his studies and is now a lawyer also living in Radlett, married to Rachel and they have two children, Olivia 5 and Daniel 2.

Sidney, who was born and bred in Edinburgh, attended Boroughmuir High School like other members of the community although at the time he went, he was the only Jewish boy. He played rugby for the school. He has enjoyed a long and distinguished career in Edinburgh as a podiatrist; Sandra serving as his receptionist for many years.

Both Sandra and Sidney were brought up in families where communal work was part of their lives and subsequently Sidney has been very active within the community serving three times as Chairman of the Community Centre. And for a long time he was the much valued and respected Treasurer of this publication, the Edinburgh Star. He has also been a past Master of the Lodge Solomon and still participates within the Lodge. He is a regular attender at services as is Sandra who has likewise participated in communal work serving for over twenty years on the Community Centre Committee and is the past Convenor for sick-visiting. She is also on the rota for cooking at the luncheon club.

Sidney, on retirement, was also keen to participate in voluntary work within the city. He has been a Royal Mile Guide and has served in the Sheriff's Court within the Witness Service helping witnesses steer through the complexities of the Courts. For relaxation, Sandra and Sidney are very keen bridge players and play regularly with other members of the community. They also enjoy cruising and are frequent theatre and cinemagoers. Sidney also has a great love of football, supporting Hibernian FC, a love that he has transmitted to his sons as they join him at matches whenever they are in Edinburgh.

Sandra says how much she has enjoyed her life in Edinburgh, a city that she has clearly adopted and much loves. As they come from such small families, they have both come to look at their friends in the EHC as their family, relishing being part of a close-knit community.

Sandra and Sidney are devoted grandparents and travel south to their sons for as many of the Jewish Holidays that they can. There is a wonderful array of photographs dotted about their warm and inviting home in the Duddingston area of Edinburgh as testament to this. The house has been their home throughout their marriage and you immediately feel welcome.

Members of the community were able to congratulate Sandra and Sidney and their lovely family at the Kiddush they hosted in shul in March. It was clear that they are much loved and very valued not only by their own family but also by their extended 'family', the community. The Executive of the Star together with their readership take great pleasure in extending their good wishes to the past Treasurer and his wife on this most special occasion. Fifty years on, they still make a most striking couple!

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Khaled struggled at school due to his severe learning difficulties. WIZO gave him the opportunity to train as a chef. He now successfully manages a trendy restaurant in Jerusalem.

A donation to Jewish Women's Week this year will help ensure that teenagers like Khaled are given a second chance.

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Jewish Women's Week 3-10 May 2015

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Pearl and Ian Shein

Edward Green

2014 has been a momentous year for Pearl and Ian Shein with Ian celebrating his most special 90th birthday and on the 28th December, Pearl and Ian marked twenty years since their marriage was solemnised at the Prestwich Hebrew Congregation.

Not that they had only just met as Pearl and Ian had enjoyed a friendship that had spanned many decades as Ian's late wife, Joyce, had been Pearl's closest friend since they met in kindergarten in South Shields. Pearl laughingly remembers, (and there is a lot of laughter around Pearl), that she was asked to look after a newcomer to the school who was 'another little Jewish girl' and Joyace would say Pearl had been looking after her ever since! Pearl ranked Joyce her second sister, as her own sister Ruby, to whom she is very close and sees a lot, came along when Pearl was nine years old.

Affection turned to far more for Pearl and Ian six years after Ian lost his much loved Joyce after 36 years of marriage at the age of 60. He talks of those six years as his years in the wilderness, years void of any joy and happiness. He credits Pearl with "bringing him back to life" and it's easy to see why. Pearl's warm and happy disposition makes her immediately likeable and approachable, and she is life enhancing. Ian is the more reserved of the two and the perfect foil to Pearl's ebullient personality. And for Ian who had no family of his own, there was an added bonus. Pearl came with a loving and caring family who cherish and treasure her and immediately embraced Ian for the lovely man he is.

As we were sitting chatting, Pearl and Ian were awaiting the arrival of Pearl's daughter, Sue, and her husband who were taking them out for a celebratory anniversary dinner with the family. Sue is a teacher, her husband Barry is Deputy Post Graduate Dean (Health Education North West) and they have a son who is married with two children and a daughter. Pearl also has two sons, Martin who is an Anthropologist at Exeter University and lives in Dawlish with his wife Cath, a teacher of the deaf, with their three daughters, and a younger son, Jan, who is a lawyer in Manchester, married to Jayne a teacher, with twin daughters and a son. Ian recalls how touched he was by all of Pearl's children in the way they welcomed him, and now their children treat Ian as an honorary grandfather, their own grandfather, and Pearl's former husband, living in Israel.

John Cosgrove wrote many years ago a wonderful profile of Ian Shein seen in these pages. It was termed "the interviewer gets interviewed" as Ian was one of the main writers for the Star since its inception writing over 15 profiles for the magazine. As well as being an editorial assistant for the Star, he was responsible for distribution and researched the minutes of the EHC on behalf of the Star.

Gentle and likeable in every way, you can see why Ian would be the ideal interviewer. Born in Edinburgh, Ian attended Boroughmuir School before moving to Dundee with his mother and stepfather, Jack Shein, where his stepfather had a clothing manufacturing business. Leaving school at the age of 14 to work in the factory (his choice) he was called up four years later to serve with the Special Operations Executive as a radio operator based in Italy and subsequently India working with military troops and agents behind enemy lines mostly in Yugoslavia. Called back on compassionate grounds towards the end of the war when his stepfather died suddenly at 56, he was demobbed so that he could take over his stepfather's business, which he then ran for seven years. But it was not a business to his liking and he returned to Edinburgh with Joyce who he had met and married while in Dundee. Joyce had been posted to a Personnel job there in a jute factory.

At the age of 34, Ian decided to retrain as a Probation Officer, studying at Glasgow University, as his great interests were the Law and Social Work and remained in this field 15 years before becoming for 12 years a Reporter and paid official to the Children's Panel for the Lothian Region.

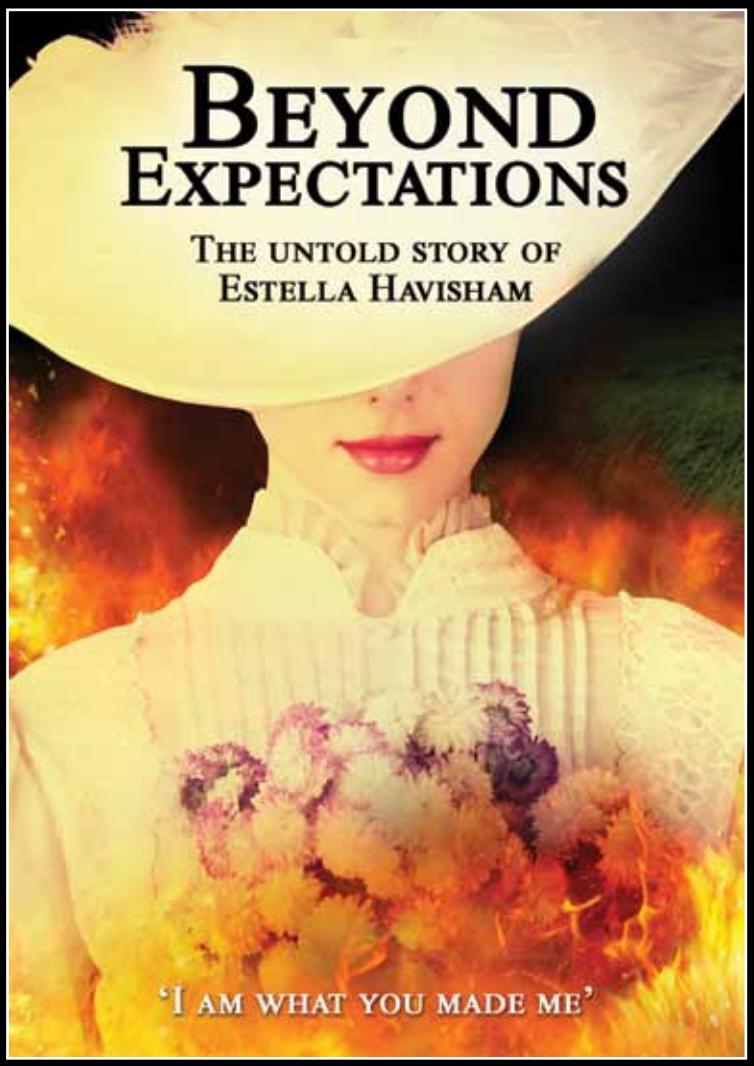
After his early retirement, Ian undertook a host of voluntary work. He was a Guide for Festival visitors down the Royal Mile but in the main his time was taken up with jobs related to the shul. Amongst his posts, he was Secretary of the Community Centre indulging his love of writing by penning plays for the Community Centre to put on.

Ian was Treasurer to the EHC under Mickey Cowen's presidency, Secretary to the EHC under the late Nate Oppenheim and was the Librarian for the wonderful collection of books that the EHC holds and which are housed in the Succah. He also served as a Master of Lodge Solomon, as Secretary of the Chevra Kadisha under the late Joe Riffkin's leadership and was for many years Treasurer of the Edinburgh Board of Guardians. He remains an active member of AJEX (Association of Jewish ex-Servicemen) and was the Chairman of AJEX Edinburgh.

Just before she married Ian, Pearl retired from her job. She had worked for nearly thirty years in the Psychiatric department of a large hospital in Manchester. Ian and Pearl now divide their time between their home in Edinburgh and a flat they have in Prestwich, Manchester. Ian understandably recognised that it was too much to expect for Pearl to be separated from her loving sister and her family when her health took a downward turn as they were anxious to care for her. Pearl also had no wish to separate Ian from his life and friends that he so appreciated in Edinburgh. They have enjoyed travelling together on many holidays and have similar taste in theatre and music but their greatest shared love and one that Ian will always be grateful to Pearl for is her gift of family. Without Pearl, Ian felt he was like a ship without a rudder and she has now given him stability and love in his life that he had lost. There is undoubtedly a great affection between Ian and Pearl, but also laughter and delight with a shared concern and companionship that is a joy to see.

The Executive and Readership of the Star Magazine send their very best wishes to Pearl and Ian on these two wonderful milestones.

Pearl and Ian Shein's actress granddaughter Jessica Levinson Young, is bringing a cast of five from Devon to Edinburgh Fringe to present a new play written by her father, Pearl's son Martin, a sequel to Dickens' Great Expectations. This will be performed by the Untold Theatre Company at the Greenside Centre in Infirmary Street from 7th to 15th August at 4pm.



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Chanukah

A TRIO OF CHANUKIAHS

Micheline Brannan

Someone was heard to mumble, “you wait all your life for a Chanukiah lighting and then three come along in a row”. And that was indeed what happened in Edinburgh the first three nights of Chanukah.

The first evening saw a monumental event; the presentation and celebratory lighting of a Chanukiah given to the Scottish Parliament. It was gifted to Parliament by Charles Rifkind and his sisters Marion Krasnov and Gabrielle Levy in memory of their late father Dr Joseph Rifkind. Beautifully designed by Edinburgh based Julian Draper, and lovingly crafted in the Clockhouse Furniture workshops in East Drem, it stands nearly five foot tall, designed to echo and complement the modern feel of the structure in which it sits being made from oak and sycamore to reflect the woods used in the construction of the Parliament building.

When Charles Rifkind asked Edward Green for ideas for a memorial to his late father, this was one of the concepts he presented and there followed Edward’s negotiations with the Parliament through his contacts there to have the design and the gift accepted. The Chanukiah will be housed in the Parliament buildings year round, available for all to see (by appointment) and it is hoped that the lighting will be an annual event open to all Jews in Scotland.

The lighting was hosted by the Presiding Officer, Tricia Marwick, MSP, who spoke most appreciatively of the role of Jews in Scotland. The event was attended by a number of MSPs. Amongst them were Cameron Buchanan who directly helped in arranging the acceptance of the gift, Ken Macintosh known for his involvement in Holocaust and Israeli issues, Linda Fabiani, a member of the Scottish Parliament’s Corporate Body and host of the recent Holocaust Educational Trust reception, Sir Jamie McGrigor, Conservative Spokesperson for the Environment, Europe & External Affairs, Kevin Stewart and Stewart Maxwell.

The event, which was coordinated by Morris Kaplan, a first cousin to the Rifkinds, was beautifully arranged within the Garden Lobby of Holyrood, with the Glasgow Jewish Singers under the leadership of Eddie Binnie performing a variety of pieces. Morris and his cousins Marion, who had flown in from America especially for the event and Gabrielle gave speeches. The siblings all spoke most touchingly of their late father and his achievements and the love he felt for his hometown of Edinburgh making reference also to their grandfather who had emigrated from Lithuania to Edinburgh in 1898.

For the lighting itself, the Shamash was lit by Rabbi Rubin, Senior Rabbi of Scotland. He had previously addressed the gathering about the Festival of Chanukah. Rabbi Rubin passed the Shamash to the Presiding Officer who in turn passed it to Charles Rifkind to light the only candle. It was indeed a most historic event.

Wednesday evening saw the seventh year’s lighting of the Chanukiah in St Andrew’s Square once again arranged by Rabbi Pinny Weinman for Chabad Edinburgh.

A new Chanukiah had been constructed to a height of just less than 12 feet and made of steel with an approximate weight of three quarters of a ton. It has been designed to withstand all weathers and eventualities and is a remarkable and striking structure. Given by Maryla and Edward Green; it has been made to exacting standards and for repeated use.

Edward Green, Rabbi Mark Solomon, the Lord Provost, Rabbi David Rose and Rabbi Yossi Bodenheim at the City Chambers with Chanukiah

Members of Sukkat Shalom with Rabbi Mark Solomon and the Lord Provost

This year, Sam Rounds, a student from California now at Edinburgh University, lighted the Chanukiah after an introduction from Rabbi Weinman. Julian Goodman led Maoz Tzur and other Chanukah songs and the assembled crowd of well over a hundred then repaired to Motel One just off Princes Street for the post-lighting reception.

A student from Oakland, California, Sophia Wilkof, was given the honour by Rabbi Weinman of making the introductions of the speakers, the principal speaker being Alex Neil MSP, who spoke most movingly of the relationship of the Jewish community in Edinburgh and Scotland with the general public. The Principal Officer at the U.S. Consulate, Zoja Bazarnic, made an address this year once again, as did Eric Milligan, former Lord Provost of Edinburgh and one greatly admired who has been a great supporter of Jewish events in Edinburgh.

As in previous years, Rebbetsin Gitty Weinman surpassed herself with the provision of a delicious choice of latkes, doughnuts and other Chanukah delicacies. And what a pleasure it was to see the growing Weinman family participating and obviously enjoying the event. Our thanks go to Rabbi Pinny and Gitty Weinman for once again hosting such a memorable Chanukiah lighting.

The last of the trio of the Chanukiah lighting was perhaps the most contentious one. Hosted by the Lord and Lady Provost it was the first ever lighting of a Chanukiah to take place in the City Chambers and had it not been for this year's infamous flying of the Palestinian flag, it would have been unanimously well received.

However, the Lord Provost wished to move on from the most unpleasant happenings in the summer and to offer some explanation and apology. Earlier in the year, in recognition of the important relationship and contribution of the Edinburgh Jewish Community to the city of Edinburgh, the Lord Provost had made an offer to host a Chanukah Lighting in the City Chambers where the Jewish community in Edinburgh in its entirety would be invited whether affiliated to a synagogue or not. It now seemed most opportune for the Lord Provost to use that event to offer an explanation. Maryla and Edward Green had already donated a beautiful glass Chanukiah made in Israel for this possible event and which will now reside in the City Chambers on public view throughout the year.

Approximately 130 people attended the evening, which was held in the main Council Chamber. The Lord Provost in his opening words of welcome addressed the 'elephant in the room' by making reference and a full explanation of what transpired in the summer and apologising for the enormous upset it caused. He concluded his remarks on this by saying that 'no-one was happy'; the Council realised the decision they made had appeased no one and hurt many. The pro-Palestinians had felt short-changed as the flag was only flown for a few hours, and we had felt truly offended that the flag had been flown at all, even if it was a decision that was the lesser of two evils. His genuine concern for the Jewish community was clear to see.

Rabbi Rose spoke most eloquently of the Festival of Chanukah and we were most delighted to see a host of councilors there including Bailies Angela Blacklock and Elaine Aitken, councillors Eric Milligan and Cameron Rose all who have honoured the EHC with their presence at our yearly memorial at the Peace Park in Princes Street Gardens.

The Lord Provost was given the honour of lighting the Shamash. Rabbi Mark Solomon of Sukkat Shalom who was in fine voice made the most wonderful blessings and lit the first candle, followed by Alec Rubenstein, the most senior member of the Jewish Communities in Edinburgh. Rabbi Rose lit the last candle and the evening was also graced by the presence of Rabbis Pinny Weinman from Chabad Edinburgh and Yossi Bodenheim, the student chaplain for Scotland.

Like the lighting in Parliament, it was truly a momentous occasion and one that will go down in our annals. The Chanukiah was placed on a dais by the window and Edward Green in his vote of thanks to the Lord Provost made reference to the mitzvah of lighting the Chanukiah in a window where others can see it and the enormous honour it was that this Chanukah light should now shine down on the City of Edinburgh from the Council Chambers.

The Crystal Chanukiah donated by Maryla and Edward Green

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

Marion Krasnov née Rifkind

Rabbi Rubin and the Presiding Officer watch as the candles are lit by the Rifkind siblings

The Presiding Officer, Trisha Marwick MSP, welcomes the guests

ST ANDREWS SQUARE

Rabbi Weinman leads the dancing as the piper plays

Rabbi Rose and Rabbi Weinman discuss the new Chanukiah

Lord Julian Goodman sings the blessings for the lighting of the new Chanukiah, with piper and Rabbi Rose looking on

The USA Consul General, Zoja Bazarnic, speaks

Listening to the speeches

The Glasgow Jewish Singers with conductor Eddie Binnie

Marion Krasnov née Rifkind, Charles Rifkind, Hilary Rifkind, Edward Green and Simone Rifkind (Charles's wife)

The magnificent Chanukiah being admired

The designer, Julian Draper and maker Nick Parry with his wife Priscilla, stand with Charles Rifkind in front of the Chanukiah

The Rt Hon Eric Milligan speaks

Rabbi Weinman addressing the audience

The children were well entertained

Alex Neill MSP, Cabinet Secretary, Social Justice, speaks. Amit Nebo, guitarist to the right

A juggler entertains the children

Sophia Willcof introduces the speakers

EHC CHANUKAH DINNER – SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER 2014

Micheline Brannan

The EHC Chanukah dinner was as usual a fantastic success.

Following a reception, Rabbi Rose lit the Chanukah candles. The 65 guests sat down to a meal of soup, roast chicken and a chocolate pudding with ice cream. Following benching, the ensemble Barluath entertained us with a performance of Scottish traditional music. Carol Levstein introduced the performers, and Hilary Rifkind said some words of thanks at the end of the evening to all who had assisted to make it such a success.

Rabbi Rose lights the five Chanukah candles

Hilary Rifkind thanks the participants

Carol Levstein introduces Barluath

Barluath playing (L to R Edward Seaman, Ainsley Hamill and Eilidh Firth)

Steven Hyams offers wine to his mother, Sandra and Sidney Caplan and Anita and David Mendelssohn

Harriet Lyall talking to Jonathan Sperber with John Danzig and Sara and Matthew Shaps looking on.

The Levy/Maher family enjoying the evening with Philip Goldberg, Izaak Jacek and David Ellison

Gershon Mendick pouring the wine in the background and new Member Jane Rickman, enjoying a chat with Elaine Levy.

Joe and Margaret Aronson, Arnold Rifkind, Andrea and Malcolm Cowan, Rachel Skop, Hilary Rifkind, Raymond and Jackie Taylor, Norman and Avril Berger

Sheva and Ann Lurie together with Susie Kelpie and Gordon Plotkin and Hephzibah Kolban

Rabbi Rose together with Judy and Tony Gilbert, Avery Meiksin, Stanley Raffel enjoy the evening with the performers

Irene Hyams, Shirley and Peter Bennett, Carole and Mickey Cowen, Eve Oppenheim and Clarice Osborne

Jonnie and Joyce Sperber enjoying Harriet's company

Kate Goodwin joining her sister Rachel Skop

Chanukah service and tea/Children watch as Lord Julian sets up Chanukiah

Animal Man holds the children spell-bound introducing his Mini Zoo

Left: The cheder children each lit one of the Chanukah candles

Right: The children handle an albino corn snake

Ronen helps daughter Evie to light

Multiple Chanukah candle lighting in the Marian Oppenheim Hall

L to R Jonathan Danzig, Lesley Danzig, Leonna Shenkin, Alan Shenkin and Susie Adler

L to R Martin Simmen, Shari Cohn-Simmen and Rabbi Rose

Richie Anderson (EHC's caretaker) enjoys the show with his family

Hannah Holtschneider, Tina Lappanen, Sharon Ogilvie, Avery Meiksin, Rachel Dorfman

L to R Lawrence Taylor, Philip Goldberg, Steven Hyams and Susan Hyams

Dorothy Sheratt prepares to light the first candle

EHC CHANUKAH SERVICE AND TEA ON SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER 2014

Micheline Brannan

The annual Chanukah Service was held in the Beit Hamidrash on the fifth day of Chanukah.

The cheder children, under the direction of Lord Julian Goodman, lit the Chanukah candles, and sang *Hanerot Halalu, Maoz Tsur* and *Chanukah oh Chanukah*. After tea, the families were invited to light their own Chanukiot in the Marian Oppenheim Hall. Tea followed, with latkes and doughnuts. Raymond Taylor, Chairman of EHC's Board of Management, spoke briefly and thanked everyone who had been involved in organising the event. Lord Julian annually donates the candles in memory of his great aunt whose birthday was on Chanukah. After tea the children and many of the adults enjoyed a presentation by 'Animal Man' who had brought a zoo of small animals. He gave a talk about each animal then brought it out of its cage to meet the children. There was much fascination as the children bravely handled a cockroach, a mouse, a rat, a tarantula, a bearded dragon and an albino corn snake. It was a very enjoyable afternoon for everyone concerned. Even the animals seemed quite happy with their outing.

Jews in Scotland's Censuses

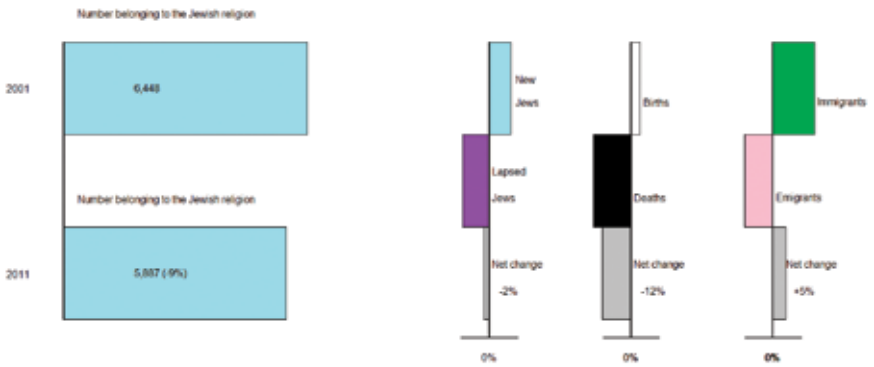
Gillian Raab

If you were living in Scotland in April 2011 you may remember filling in the Census form and answering the question "What religion, religious denomination, or body do you belong to?"

Gillian Raab

This was the second time that the Census has asked about religion. At the 2001 Census the same question was included along with an additional question religion "brought up in". Of course one can argue that this is not the right way to count Jews, Jewish identity is about more than religion. There are good reasons to believe that the Census estimate may be too low and Ephraim Borowski has argued this persuasively in an article on the web site of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (www.scojec.org). But the value of Census data is not in absolute numbers, but in looking at trends over time. Between 2001 and 2011 the number of people answering Jewish as the religion they belong to fell by 9%. This compares with a small increase of 1.4% in the numbers of Jews in England.

The Census data are only available for analysis by staff of the National Records of Scotland (NRS), and the privacy of the records is very strictly protected and will be for 100 years after each Census. But an anonymised sample of approximately 1 in 20 Census records is made available as part of the Scottish Longitudinal Study (SLS) to researchers who must visit a secure setting at the NRS premises and agree to strict rules to preserve the confidentiality of the data. The SLS links individuals over time, between Censuses and also to birth, death and migration information, hospital admissions, cancer registrations and education records. In order to understand the factors that have caused the Jewish numbers to decline I have analysed the SLS data in a joint project with ScoJeC staff (Ephraim Borowski and Fiona Frank) this is a small extract from our preliminary results.



Source: Scotland's Census 2001 & 2011??

Source: Scottish Longitudinal Study

The numbers of Jews can change from 2001 to 2011 because people change the way they answer the question, because those in 2001 are no longer in Scotland in 2011 or because new Jews enter Scotland. We can use the sample from the SLS (320 Jewish SLS members in 2001, falling to 285 in 2011) to calculate the contribution of each of these to the 9% decline. The figure shows the results as the changes due to each of these. Differences to reported Jewish status (mostly to and from no religion) had a relatively small contribution to the decline. The largest contribution to the decline comes from the excess of deaths over births. This is to be expected from the age structure of the 2011 Jewish population: only 10% under 16 compared to 17% in Scotland as a whole and 25% over 65 compared to 17% in all Scotland. But this is compensated by the excess of Jewish immigrants coming to Scotland over those emigrating. Jews have very high proportions of migrants compared to other groups: 12% of Jewish SLS members left Scotland between 2001 and 2011 and 19% were immigrants in 2011, compared to 5% and 7% of all SLS members. We are still wandering Jews.

In an article for the Star in 2005 I speculated on the role of the contribution to the Jewish population of Scotland due to Higher Education students from elsewhere. The SLS data enables us to identify them. Overall they make up 5% of the Jewish population in 2011, and around 3% in 2001. Because almost all are emigrants or immigrants to Scotland they make a substantial contribution to the migration figures. Without the students the net gain from migration would be +3% rather than +5%.

Council area groups	2001	2011	% change
East Renfrewshire	3128	2399	-23%
Glasgow and surroundings*	1455	1280	-8%
Edinburgh Fife and Lothians	1036	1239	20%
Elsewhere in Scotland	829	969	9%
All Scotland	**6448**	**5887**	-9%

*Glasgow City, Renfrewshire, Dumbartonshire (E&W), E Ayrshire,S Lanarkshire
Source http://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/en/news/articles/release2a.html

When substantial numbers of Jews came to Scotland in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, their journeys took them from landing at Leith to travel West either to settle there or move on to North America. As we can see from the table, movement between 2001 and 2011 was in the opposite direction, with numbers in the West falling and those in the East and elsewhere in Scotland increasing. To understand what is driving this change we need to consider all the factors described above, as well as possible internal migration. The sample numbers become too small to provide much detail, but same factors can be identified. The reason for the rise in numbers in the Lothian and Fife seems to be largely due to immigration into these areas from outside Scotland. While Jewish death rates are higher in East Renfrewshire than in other areas, losses due to emigration are smaller, so the % net loss of 2001 members from this area is slightly lower than for the Lothians and Fife. The biggest contribution to the decline is the lack of immigration from elsewhere into this area.

Further work remains to be completed on this project. It takes time for all the Census data to be checked, corrected and linked to information from other sources. As well as the SLS members themselves, the SLS holds data on all the family members of each one, their relationships to the SLS member and their answers to the religion question. When this information is available it will enable us to get some insight into topics such as the religious identity of children compared to their parents and the extent of mixed religious partnerships. When all the data are available a more detailed report will be produced.

We are grateful to the staff of the Longitudinal Studies Centre – Scotland (LSCS) for their help with this project. The LSCS is supported by the ESRC/JISC, the Scottish Funding Council, the Chief Scientist's Office and the Scottish Government. The author alone is responsible for the interpretation of the data. Census output is Crown copyright and is reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO and the Queen's Printer for Scotland.

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Coffee, Chat, Cake Auction

Pictures by Judy Gilbert

On Sunday 21 September 2014 the Community Centre Committee held their annual pre-High Holy Days coffee morning. Around 30 members and visitors had the chance to bid for home baking, browse the bookstall, buy some plants, and chat to friends over a relaxing cup of coffee.

What's on offer

Elaine Samuel, Jane Ansell and Janet Mundy checking the bids with Carol Levstein

Gathering interest

The Danzigs enjoying a quiet corner with Joyce Sperber

Somebody's spoils of war!

Community Quiz

SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2014

Carol Levstein

The Community Quiz was compered this year by Arnold Rifkind and Susan Hyams. The winning team are shown minus Dorothy Sherratt and her mother Pam Wiener who had to leave before pictures were taken.

The whole evening was in reality great fun with lots of laughs and friendship. Sincere thanks to the EHC Community Centre Committee for the arrangements and the catering and for laying on a most enjoyable evening.

L to R: Maurice Griffin, Gidona Henderson, Elaine Levy, Janet Mundy, Jonathan Danzig, Arnold Rifkind, Oliver Mundy and Susan Hyams

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EHC Remembers

Micheline Brannan

In 2014 EHC's annual Armistice Day service took place at 3pm on Sunday 9 November.

The service was very moving, with readings by 3 of the young members and the Last Post and Reveille played, as usual, by bugler Angus Edmond. Following the service the congregation sat down to the annual tea sponsored by a bequest from the late Violet Oppenheim. The Chair of EHC's Board of Management, Raymond Taylor, welcomed everyone and said a few words of appreciation for everyone who had made the event possible. On Tuesday 11 November, EHC held a ceremony at the War Memorial at Piershill Ceremony, where Alec Rubenstein, our senior member, laid a wreath.

Alec Rubenstein lays the wreath at the War Memorial at Piershill Cemetery

Sylvia Donne, President of Edinburgh Chevra Kadisha, talking with the Rabbi

Alec Rubenstein with Raymond Taylor at Piershill

Laying the wreath at Piershill

Norman Berger, Lord Julian Goodman, and bugler Angus Edmond at Piershill

Raymond Taylor, Chairman thanking all those involved at the EHC Remembrance Sunday tea

Readers Omri Gardi, Hanna Cohn-Simmen and Dorothy Sheratt, who all made contributions at the service with bugler Angus Edmond

Standard bearers Philip Goldberg and David Gonshaw process out of synagogue

Remembrance Sunday tea in the Marian Oppenheim Hall

102 people making challah together at Giffnock Shul on Wednesday 22 October 2014

Raymond and Jackie happy that their dough has risen

Shabbat UK

Micheline Brannan

The Chief Rabbi, Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, called on Jews across the UK, regardless of their level of religious observance, to celebrate a Shabbat unlike any other, on the weekend of Friday 24th October and Saturday 25th October.

Jackie rolls a strand for her challah

Raymond rolls a strand too

The Scottish Jewish Communities embraced this initiative enthusiastically. In Glasgow a mass Challah baking was held at Giffnock and Newlands Synagogue, and our Star reporter, out and about, spied the Chairman and Secretary of EHC's Board of Management sharing this event. In Edinburgh, EHC held a special Friday night dinner at which the guest speaker was Ishmael Khaldi, the first Bedouin Diplomat in the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr Khaldi was quite at home in a Jewish audience and later we had opportunities to purchase his memoir 'A Shepherd's Journey'. In this slim volume he tells how he grew up in the village of Khawaled, in the Galilee, which had links to the local Kibbutz, where he worked while attending high school. With the encouragement of the Kibbutzniks, he went to the USA, and developed a lifelong bond with the Chabad movement, as Chabad were the only people who always made him welcome when he was penniless and trying to get along in the USA as a young traveller. After a few months, he returned home and took up a place at Haifa University. After his first degree he did national service in the Israeli police. He went on to do a Masters and joined the Israeli Diplomatic Service. Later he returned to the USA as Israeli Vice-Consul, San Francisco, and was astonished at the anti-Israel sentiments expressed on the campus of Berkley, California, including by Jewish intellectuals. In his book he expresses his hopes for greater equality amongst the citizens of Israel and for peaceful development of Israeli society for the benefit of all its social groups. To me, sharing our Shabbat UK with this remarkable young man made it a really special occasion and I am proud that EHC were able to make him welcome.

Tables set for Friday night dinner at EHC 24 October

EHC Mitzvah DAY

SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2014

Micheline Brannan

Your Editor paid a visit to EHC Hebrew Classes on Sunday 16 November to watch the enthusiastic group of teachers, helpers and children prepare donations for a local food bank.

Wearing special green teeshirts and hanging onto green balloons, the group posed for pictures with the sorted food products. Mitzvah Day is an international concept that can be fulfilled in whatever way suits local circumstances. The branding of the teeshirts and balloons is international and if you want to know more you can consult the website

www.mitzvahday.org.uk

It is fantastic that a small community like EHC can mount the forces necessary to observe Mitzvah Day (as we do annually) and make a difference to local people.

MitzvahDay International

WIZO Quiz

SATURDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2015

Susan Hyams

A team made up of Susan and Steven Hyams, Carol and Tom Griffin, Hilary and Arnold Rifkind, Lesley and John Danzig, Stan Raffel, Elaine Samuel, Jonathan Adler and Susie Shenkin participated in the annual nationwide online quiz.

Susan and Steven Hyams hosted the event at their house and everyone brought contributions to the supper which was served once the team had worked through some of the rounds. The rounds included spotting the Royal member from a disguised picture, old money, dingbats, naming the author from a cryptic clue and finding the connection between various items.

After the frantic entering in of the answers on to the website before the 10.30 p.m. deadline, all that was left was to wait for the results to come in. And we did pretty well… out of 130 teams, this Edinburgh team came in joint 14th with 95 points. The first team got 101 points.

As usual, another Edinburgh team of more shy violets met at the home of Sylvia Donne and also competed in the Quiz. They did pretty well too. This team was placed 60th with a score of 86 and a fun evening was had by all.

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EHC's Purim

14 ADAR 5775 (WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH 2015)

Micheline Brannan

EHC'S Purim celebrations started with Maariv in a packed Beit Hamidrash. Rabbi Rose read the Megillah and entertained everyone as usual with his frequent changes of headgear and props, and his variation of voices.

Zeresh the wicked witch contrasted with the delicate Esther, the horrid Haman with the magisterial Mordechai and the majestic Ahasuerus. The children and adults enthusiastically used the greggers provided whenever Haman was mentioned. Afterwards tea and hamantaschen were served, followed by a wonderful Seudah, sponsored by Avril and Norman Berger, to celebrate Norman's 80th birthday. Avril and her friends had cooked the food, which was a magnificent vegetarian buffet. Wine was brought to the tables but no-one got drunk enough to fail to distinguish Baruch Mordechai and Arur Haman! We are a sober lot at EHC!

Many thanks to Avril and Norman Berger, and hearty Mazal Tov to Norman on his significant birthday. And thanks also to Rabbi Rose and to everyone who worked hard to make the evening such a success.

Naomi and Orli Meiksin are among the children with greggers making a noise at the mention of Haman. The adults also join in.

The ladies section shake their greggers

Rabbi Rose reaading the Megillah with horns and trident for Haman

The men's section also enter into the spirit of things

Rabbi Rose reading the Megillah in a fez – for Mordechai

L to R Gershon Mendick, David Gonshaw, Philip Goldberg

Sara Lurie with the editor – we made an effort to dress up!

Mazal tov to Norman Berger on his 80th birthday. Avril and Norman sponsored the seudah

Amir and Ofer Dagan

L to R Harriet Lyall, Norman Berger the birthday boy, Mark Goldberg and Lawrence Taylor

Michael Taylor chats to Julian Goodman

L to R Isaak Janas, Jonathan Kish, Norma Brodie, Elaine Levy, Monetteh Armande

L to R Norma Brodie, Elaine Levy in Purim bonnet and Monetteh Armande

L to R at table, Mickey Cowen, Malcolm Cowan, Clarice Osborne, Sharon Ogilvie, David Mendelssohn, Anita Mendelssohn

L to R Ruth Adler, Hannah Cohn-Simmen and Orli Meiksin

Amir Dagan or Superman

Melissa Gilroy and Harriet Lyall

Snow White (Sigal Finlay) cheering up Grumpy (son Leo)

L to R Ayelet Dagan, Susie Kelpie, Stan Raffel, Elaine Samuel and Eli Ettedgui-Atad

Raymond Taylor says a few words at the Seudah

L to R Lord Julian Goodman, Jackie Taylor, Andrea Cowan

Limmud 2015

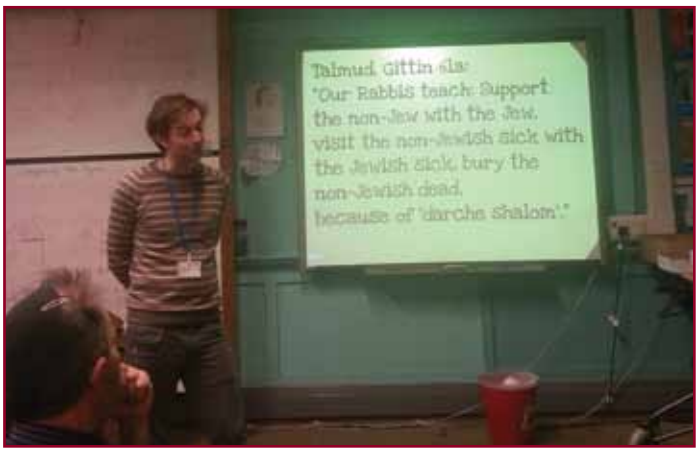
Micheline Brannan

Some 30 members of the Edinburgh Jewish Community made an early start to come by coach to Glasgow for Limmud 2015 on Sunday 8 March. About 10 more attended separately, joining some 400 participants from Glasgow and elsewhere for this remarkable event.

As usual, there were several parallel sessions running, with the maximum possible to attend in the day being six (I managed it!). This was a difficult choice and your editor can only report on the sessions I was able to fit in. I started with Hagai M Segal, an award winning academic, consultant and analyst specialising in terrorism and Middle East affairs. Hagai lectured fluently for an hour on the forthcoming Israeli General Elections. For the first time I felt I understood the maze of madness that is Israeli politics and why it is so difficult to get any real leadership and policy drive. PR means that any party with a chance of forming a government will have to go into coalition with several others. In forced coalitions where Prime Ministers have to give significant portfolios to their political opponents, it can even be in their interests that their own Government's policies should fail in order to blame the opponent holding the portfolio. The 2015 Elections should be interesting. The Arab parties have merged to avoid being wrong footed by the new requirement for any party to get 3.25% of the vote (equal to 4 Knesset seats) to qualify for any seats at all. This could mean a smaller number of parties having Knesset seats and the Arab MKs having the balance of power. We shall see in due course.

Dan Reisel on How to be a Jewish Fundamentalist

Next I went to hear Hannah Weisfeld of Yachad on Understanding the Settlements. Yachad is an organisation that encourages British Jews to campaign for the Two State Solution. Hannah explained how the West Bank authorised settlements account for 300,000 settlers while the unauthorised settlements have about 10,000. Annexed East Jerusalem accounts for over 200,000 more Israelis living across the 'Green Line'. Expansion of settlements is provocative and is an obstacle to a lasting peace with the Palestinians. However Yachad recognises that many of the settlers live in mature towns close to the 'Green Line' that would be hard to demolish. Therefore the way forward



Richard Veber of World Jewish Relief explains why WJR works for non-Jewish clients

has to lie in forming two states with land swaps whereby land currently in Israel would be ceded to the Palestinian State to make up the 22% that the Palestinians expect to have (this being the percentage of land area covered by the West Bank and Gaza). However it doesn't look as if an Israeli Government is going to make this a reality any time soon. We shall see if the 2015 Elections change that outlook.

After lunch of soup and bagels I attended a text based study by the always popular Dan Reisel on "How to be a Jewish Fundamentalist?" Basically the answer seems to be that Jews don't go in for fundamentalism. There are proof texts to show Judaism has proceeded by valuing 'chutzpah' meaning challenge, such as Abraham's challenge to G-d when He proposed to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, and Moses's plea to G-d to forgive the sin of the Golden Calf or else to write him (Moses) out of His book. The talk was accompanied by a handout of texts which I suspect I will consult again and again.

Time for a quick cup of tea and then back to Hagai Segal, this time on the rise of ISIS and what ISIS actually wants. This was a stunning and insightful lecture and an amazing subject to tackle at Limmud. Finally I attended a presentation by Richard Veber of World Jewish Relief about why we give to charity and the important work of that organisation in the fields of humanitarian aid, capacity building and disaster relief.

To finish, there was a Klezmer Ceilidh with Celter Schmelter. Sadly the Edinburgh bus had to depart while this was taking place. Everyone had had a wonderful time and agreed that the Limmud Scotland team had surpassed themselves.

David Neville holds conversation with Professor Mona Siddiqui

More pictures are available on Star Extra www.edinburghstar.info

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My First Visit to the Middle East and Why I Still Love This Land

Joe Goldblatt

In March of 1999 I received a telephone call from the World Bank in Washington, DC. The consultant at the bank asked if I could go to Israel and Palestine as soon as possible. When I asked why this was so urgent he said "We have given the Palestinian Mayor of Bethlehem 30 million dollars for planning the celebrations for the millennium and they appear to be in big trouble."

Following further investigation I realised that the Bank was asking me to go to Bethlehem and Jerusalem to conduct a forensic audit to identify how the money was being used for the planning of the millennium celebrations scheduled for 31 December 1999 and provide consulting and training to insure the funds were well invested. I made my airline reservations and the Bank arranged my accommodations.

As a Jew who grew up in the United States this my first visit to the Promised Land. I was taught to always reverently refer to Israel as the promised land and therefore this journey was something I looked forward to with great excitement and pride. When the plane touched down in Tel Aviv I felt a sense of great emotional connection with this land. As I emerged from the airplane and began searching for the luggage carousel to collect my bag I heard an announcement in Hebrew and English that stated "Passengers, please note. The baggage handlers are on strike and there will be a delay in collecting your luggage." As I walked through the baggage hall I saw a group of ten religious men with long beards, long black coats, large black hats standing around the luggage carousel and praying loudly. I turned to one of my fellow U.S. passengers and remarked "They are probably praying that their bags will arrive soon!"

I was later told by El Al airline staff to go to my hotel and my bag would soon follow as soon as the strike had concluded. I boarded the airport bus and we headed to my hotel in Bethlehem. Following my delay at the airport I arrived at 2300 at the hotel. To my surprise, the very small hotel had large puddles of water in the lobby and electrical wires dangling from the ceiling with small sparks of electricity that were very unsettling. I was given a room and sent on my way.

As I was concerned about the mechanics of the hotel I avoided the lift and took the stairs to my room on the fourth floor. The room looked like it had not been redecorated since the 1940's. I immediately turned on the taps to run a hot bath. Within minutes I noticed that the entire floor of the toilet was covered with dark murky water. I immediately ran down the stairs to the front desk and asked for help. The staff member followed me up the stairs, walked into the toilet, opened a large drain in the floor and extracted a giant drowned rat! He turned away and left without a word. I also left the hotel that night and found a four star hotel in Manger Square.

My new hotel was within a few metres of the famous Church of the Nativity in Manger Square. I thought for a minute about another Jewish man also named Joe (or Joseph) who many years ago arrived with his pregnant wife in search of a room for his family. None of the inns would offer him a room and he was forced to stay in a manger. I mused about how times have changed, a couple of millennia later, and here I was staying in a four star hotel next door to the very same manger.

The next morning I met my local hosts, the Christian leader of Bethlehem and his honour the Mayor of Bethlehem. They explained that they needed my help in training students at Bethlehem University in delivering a series of successful events to mark the dawn of the twenty-first century while also commemorating the original birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Once again I thought, how wonderful that a Jewish lad from Texas was now responsible for helping ensure successful celebrations for the millennium and what could be the second coming of Christ.

For the next several weeks I conducted workshops in both Bethlehem and Jerusalem for Christians, Jews and Muslims. At one of these workshops a Palestinian tourism leader asked me how they could release 2000 white doves at midnight on 31 December to commemorate the millennium and promote peace. I told them that at the 1994 winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway the organisers had used white latex balloons designed as a substitution to look like small doves and filled them with helium so they could rise but not endanger real birds. I further told them that if they used real doves at midnight in Manger Square they might risk having the birds fly into the giant red hot television lights and the only thing that would be remembered was the extermination of these lovely birds. They listened with interest and then chose later to use live doves (pigeons) because they were plentiful and cheaper than manufacturing small latex balloons. The live doves flew into the lights and were roasted on international television and sadly this was one of the memories of the millennium celebration in Bethlehem.

During my consultative meetings with hundreds of Israelis and Palestinians, I quickly learned over and over again that there was a strong desire among all of them for economic cooperation. Every man and woman I spoke with equally desired long term political stability and, most importantly, a lasting peace. I, of course, wondered why this had not been achieved.

My hosts arranged for an Israeli tour guide to show me the major historical sites over several days. At each site I heard tales of fierce and bloody battles, international disagreements and other minor and major conflicts. These conflicts stretched over 5000 years into the present day.

On one bright golden Jerusalem morning, the tour guide escorted me to Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial and one of darkest chapters in humanity. As we entered the site, I noticed dozens of rifles and other guns silently stacked at the entrance. I asked the tour guide about this display and he said "One of the first missions for our members of the armed forces is to visit Yad Vashem. We wish to remind them of the human cost of war so that they will endeavour to work for peace while protecting our country. They are visiting Yad Vashem now."

At the end of my first visit to the Middle East, I was sent to Amman, Jordan to conduct similar event management training and was invited by the Minister of Tourism to a dinner in my honour at the top of a revolving restaurant in a five star hotel. The other guests at my table were wealthy sheikhs who owned tourism businesses. At the conclusion of this lavish meal the Minister of Tourism turned to me and said matter of factly "Professor, may I ask you a personal question?" I nodded my head in agreement and he asked me in a loud and firm voice, "Why do you hate us so much?"

After I recovered from my shock I lowered my voice, looked him directly in the eye and told the minister that on the contrary I did not hate him or for that matter anyone. Rather, I loved him and thanked him for his hospitality, the delicious meal and his leadership of tourism in a difficult region of the world. I then asked him why he would pose such a difficult question to me and he explained that he owned a hotel in Tel Aviv and that the Israelis made it difficult for him to do business and to even enter through Jordan into Israeli territory.

The other sheikhs nodded their heads in agreement. The minister of tourism then asked me "Why not just forgive us and forget the trespasses of the past?"

I told him that I was not an expert on the Middle East or the Israeli government. However my mother of blessed memory, had told me many years ago in referring to the Jewish Holocaust that we Jews must always find it in our hearts to forgive and equally we must remember the mistakes of the past so that we do not risk repeating them in the future. Mama added that it is illogical and dangerous to try and forget. She added in her firm voice "One must try and forgive and at the same time remember." The Minister of Tourism and the other guests nodded their heads and seemed to understand my mother's logic and I thanked them again for the lovely meal and my well hosted visit to Jordan as we embraced one another and I said that I hoped we would meet again soon in peace and together we all said in parting, with our right hands touching our hearts, "Insha 'allah" (G'd willing).

However, when it became time to return to Israel, I too experienced difficulties at the Jordanian and Israeli border and thought of my friends in Amman having to deal with this on a daily basis. Later when I arrived at Ben Gurion airport four hours in advance for security screening I was asked by officials to show them the contents of my bags. Within my bags were several diagrams for setting up a fireworks display in Manger Square. These pictures that rockets caused great alarm and my security screening lasted far longer than most. Once again I thought of the challenges that both Israelis and Arabs faced on a daily basis as they lived in this challenging land together but separate.

During the most recent crisis in the Middle East, I have often thought about my first visit to what I was told as a small boy was the Promised Land of the Jews. Now, I believe that the true promise of this land is that one day we will be able to truly forgive and remember through a process similar to South Africa, of truth and reconciliation, and when we do this that promise of understanding and perhaps peace will finally be fulfilled for all.

As part of my personal truth and reconciliation process, I recently publicly announced my support for the Scottish Government initiative to welcome and provide treatment and care for injured Palestinians who require medical care. I believe this fulfils the biblical commandment of the prophet Micah, "To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

This is why each and every morning, from my small corner of the earth in Scotland, I pray for all of the Christian, Jewish and Muslim people of the Middle East. It is also why, almost fifteen years after my first visit to this troubled and majestic land I still deeply love the people that I met there over many subsequent visits. Therefore, every day in the spirit of our Day of Atonement, I forgive in my heart those who have harmed or seek to harm us whilst still remembering the troubles of the past. The act of remembering through prayers and actions may help myself and others to not repeat future injustices. It is also why I continue to believe with all my heart that one day men and women of even more noble purpose will fulfil the ancient biblical verse of Isaiah "You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands."

About the author:

Professor Joe Goldblatt has visited the Middle East on five different occasions during the past fifteen years. He is the author and editor of 31 books in the field of event management.

Je Suis Disenchanted

Jo Capek

A good few years ago, the wonderful Spike Milligan was introduced by the host of a Saturday night TV Chat Show, but instead of immediately launching into one of his eccentric monologues, Spike gloomily announced that he did not feel in the least bit amusing and therefore it would be best if the next guest were hastily brought on.

This was just about the time he 'came out' as suffering from acute depression, an act of considerable pluck back then. For entirely different reasons I have similar sentiments. It is hard enough writing for the web-site a regular whimsy, light piece that makes one chuckle, but trebly so when you can find virtually nothing to smile about, as looking back over the last few months, the lot of the typical Jew (whether here in Edinburgh or anywhere else in the world for that matter) has became in many cases immeasurably tougher.

I was in France, albeit some 175 miles from Paris, when the Charlie Hebdo and Jewish Supermarket massacres occurred. The cartoonists and journalists of that satirical magazine were attempting to make light of the foibles, stupidities and inconsistencies of French society and what did it earn them? The fact that in many instances they were less than funny and much of the artwork was woeful is no excuse for such bestiality. And yet, as broad-minded and tolerant as I am, and eager to ensure freedom of expression is permitted at all times, I am inclined to think that the Charlie Hebdo staff took this principle to an extreme where they were asking for trouble to no good purpose, and doing so without even having the excuse that they were witty. Thinking about our own Private Eye, it would never have been so crudely offensive even towards targets that deserve every bit of odium that can be hurled at them. I am not even sure that France's reaction to these awful events is all that praiseworthy although the mass rally in The Place de la République on the following Sunday was extremely impressive.

Many questions keep nagging me about that grim week, and they flow from remembering similar atrocities in Buenos Aires and Brussels. How much publicity would there have been if the murdered had not included journalists? Would there have been much world reaction to the supermarket killings, if it had not occurred virtually concurrently with the Charlie Hebdo slaughter? How many Jews going about their normal daily lives must die in a single instance before 40+ world dignitaries would deign to walk arm in arm down a city street? Think back to the Munich Olympics murders and much of the reaction was of the 'How could this happen at these games?' agenda rather than commentary on the victims' nationality or the so-called political motivation behind the bloodshed. The sad truth is that since the recent Gaza events, irrespective of whether you believe Israel was right, wrong or over reacted, one must conclude that had only the supermarket killings taken place, the event would have been 'forgotten' by the media within 6 hours of the funerals and the world leaders would have spent their weekend doing whatever world leaders normally do. Kerry's absence on the Sunday went down like the proverbial lead balloon in Paris but was his reaction the most honest? So he turned up on the following Thursday, but only once The State Department realised diplomatic relations between the U.S. and France were turning positively arctic. Was the original assessment in Washington along the lines of 'How does this compare to 9/11?' or 'We regularly have as many deaths in a single campus shooting' a truer reflection of American sentiment? Or am I being unduly cynical in thinking the administration's reaction was primarily dictated by concluding that any reaction to a rifle attack may spark criticism from the American gun lobby?

All of which set me thinking as to whether there is some grotesque pecking order of malevolence and if there is, how does the western press or the more craven politician decide what position an event represents within it? Boko Haram can slaughter several hundred at a time, but since it operates in a far flung, third world failed state then only 4 column inches suffice and most definitely there is no need to get the Exec Jet fired up in order to attend the funerals. A Brussels museum is much closer to home, but the death toll is no more than a serious car wreck so a bit of coverage is in order but it does not justify a front page headline. A few quotes from politicians expressing their dismay is enough to outweigh the need to head overseas just for a local tragedy like that. And oh yes, having now made a comment which might be seen as support for Jews or Israel, they naturally feel duty bound to balance that, so how about voting in Parliament to support Palestine's entry into the U.N.? Won't that show how objective and impartial everybody is?

Sadly modern times ensure that such shameful judgements do not end there. Several dozen dead in a market, police station or school massacre east of The Gulf now barely gets a mention in the media. Sadly, whilst typing this very paragraph, news has broken of 30 murders in 3 attacks in parts of Baghdad but I see no willingness by our leadership to rush out there. It has become all too evident that in the BBC's eyes, half a dozen deaths due to a suicide bombing of a Tel-Aviv bus warrants far less air time than a single British squaddie murdered by a terrorist's roadside bomb in Pakistan, Afghanistan or any other 'stan'. As for the impartiality of Fleet Street, just don't get me started! If some Premier League footballer's WAG has flashed her credentials in a night club, any loss of life at a bus stop in Dizengorf Square will not feature at all. Who is it that determines one person's death is worth more coverage than a score of others?

Is there any hope for western society when its media writes about unthinking oafs who believe that demonstrating against the sale of a few tubs of Dead Sea mud in a Scottish shopping precinct will put the world to rights? And then despite the mayhem these demonstrators created, the article ends with the immortal words, "There were no arrests."

From these thoughts it was but a short mental pace to attempting to rank the various verbal no-noes which determine who is or is not properly PC. Is it worse to be ageist or an anti-Semite? Is it worse to be homophobic or fattist? Who is more reprehensible, the one mocking the vertically challenged or the one deriding the intellectually challenged? Which foreigner is it safe to stereotype and which must never be criticised, or put another way can one mock a Belgian but not a Bangladeshi? What penalty is appropriate for making fun of a Romanian as compared to a Rastafarian? No wonder so many people, without a prejudicial thought in their heads are falling foul of the hyper-sensitives amongst us. Benedict Cumberbatch uses the word 'coloured' and all hell is let loose. And simpleton me thought we are all coloured, even if my hue is white! And I also thought the 'C' word was an anatomical reference, or does it now pertain to shades and tints? What with 'F' words, 'N' words, 'Q' words et al, are we running out of alphabet and like physicists will we soon have to accommodate Greek, Sanskrit, Cyrillic and Hebrew letters, etc. Mind you with the way the world is going, those decerebrates who decry anything to do with Israel no matter what, will no doubt have much to say about the last of these. Therefore in a spirit of wishing to delay the day when a violent backlash against all things PC is unleashed, I offer the following list of words which must never be uttered by thinking people. Instead they should substitute such unworthy thoughts with these letter substitutes.

A word	Atheist
B word	Buddhist
C word	Catholic
D word	Democrat
E word	English
F word	Fascist
G word	German
H word	Homo (anything) including Homo Sapiens
I word	Irish
J word	Jew
K word	Kindness (well it is going out of fashion in many cultures!)
L word	Liberal
M word	Muslim
N word	Nationalist
O word	Old
P word	Presbyterian
Q word	Quaker
R word	Republican
S word	Scottish or Socialist
T word	Tory
U word	Ultra-(anything)
V word	Vegan
W word	Welsh
X word	Xenophobic
Y word	Young
Z word	Zounds (or any swearing)

Meanwhile, as I set off in search of a '**Je suis disenchanted**' T-shirt, I will contemplate the sad fact that had the Charlie Hebdo press room been so careful and circumspect as to use the list above, many of its members might still be alive. What is worse, and this may still not be sufficiently PC to state in some circles, I fear nothing could have saved those buying their Sabbath groceries in the Rue de Vincennes.

The 'Lit' 2014-2015 season

Micheline Brannan

If one society is continuing to do well in the Edinburgh Jewish Community it is the Lit.

Clive Lawton

Its membership is stable and it had a new lease of life with the 125th anniversary weekend in March 2014. The current season started with Clive Lawton analysing different concepts of 'Israel' and continued with David Lehmann speaking about marriage within the orthodox community. Star 74 contains full reports of the other Lit meetings in 2014-15. More news about the Lit can be found on the website

www.ejls.org

Clive Lawton chats to Rabbi Rose and Avery Meiksin, past Lit President, at the Opening meeting

David Lehmann addressed the Lit on 9 November

JUDAH PASSOW: SEEING OURSLEVES: PHOTOGRAPHING INSIDE SCOTLAND'S JEWISH COMMUNITIES 30 NOVEMBER

Judy Gilbert

Judah Passow has a truly professional and successful life as a photo journalist.

He has lived on the edge, having covered the Israeli-Palestinian conflicts and wars in Lebanon and Bosnia over the past thirty five years. So what brought him to Scotland?

Judah has a deep interest in people and likes to represent them in combinations of their multi-faceted identities. His roots as a Jew gave an obvious impetus to find out how his own kind have fared in unlikely situations. He wanted to show that you don't have to compromise one identity in order to express another.

He introduced his talk with a series of images highlighting the vibrancy of life as a Jew in Scotland. We looked at wonderfully atmospheric monochrome illustrations of people not only enjoying themselves, celebrating life events, such as weddings and Bar-mitzvahs, but also recording ordinary, everyday activities too. We saw from the cradle to the grave; laughter and tears, common everywhere, but with a twist of underlying Jewishness.

He visited the Highlands where he was able to represent a lady who must be the only Jewish shepherdess in Scotland! His subject is seen walking past her own cottage that proudly displays a chanukia in the window. This same lady is also seen tending her sheep in a vast expanse of grazing land, while wearing her Magen David. We see iconic images of Scots in kilts, a whisky distiller, a bearer of the haggis on Burns Night and many more typically Scottish activities, but carried out by Jews; demonstrating that Jews can become a part of their local environment but still remain true to their cultural heritage.

When asked how he managed to achieve such unselfconscious snippets of life, he explained that a major part of his photographic work began with melting into the background. By appearing in any particular situation so often that he became invisible, or living the life for a while, as with our

Judah Passow

shepherdess, he wore the cloak of invisibility and his presence became unobserved. A photo showing the owner of a delicatessen tearing her hair out in frustration at the demands of one of her more difficult customers, demonstrated this beautifully.

What was blatantly obvious was the use of black and white images rather than full-blown technicolor, though these techniques also have their place in the right circumstances. My own personal feeling was that by using black and white imagery, a more thought provoking response could be achieved; there would be a tendency to concentrate more on the central concept of interest with less muddying of waters provided by colourful but distracting information. Judah confirmed my opinion saying that he himself sometimes converted images, previously recorded in colour, into monochrome for that very reason.

Gillian Raab, who chaired the meeting, opened the floor to the subsequent flood of questions from the audience. Judah Passow said that he felt flattered to be invited to talk to The Literary Society, but we were delighted and privileged to hear about, and see, the work of such a well known and much admired photographer at first hand.

Audience members

CHANUKAH AT THE LIT ON SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER 2014

Micheline Brannan

As usual at Chanukah, there was a departure from the speaker meeting format. Elaine Samuel and David Bleiman, with the help of other members, concocted a presentation of Jewish food-based readings and reminiscences, some set to music.

There was so much to include – from Marilyn Monroe's famous comment: "I love matzo balls, but what do they do with the rest of the matzo?", to Heinrich Heine's "Ode to Cholent". David Bleiman made good use of his amazing collection of historic Jewish recordings – sharing a recording of a funny story by Max Bacon from 1938 about a kishke that fell on the floor, and a recording of "Rumania, Rumania", amongst others. Lesley Danzig recollected how, when she went on Aliyah at the age of 13, she first saw corn on the cob and sabra fruit being sold on the street, and how no-one had an oven, so cakes were baked in a hollow mould on a primus stove. Michael Adler recounted a funny story of how not one, but two kosher frozen geese were sent by mail order for his family Chanukah dinner. The second was a replacement for the first, which had gone missing in the post but in the end both arrived. Carol Levstein talked about Pesach in the days before powdered coffee, when Camp Coffee concentrate was used during the year but was not available for Pesach, and absolutely no-one regarded coffee as a drink. It was only used to flavour a coffee cake. This is only a taste of the many and varied contributions that made it an amazing evening's entertainment, and to crown it all, latkes and doughnuts were served after the meeting. Many thanks to David and Elaine and to all the contributors.

MCs David Bleiman and Elaine Samuel

L to R Lesley Danzig, Carol Levstein and Judy Gilbert

Judy Gilbert then took us all on a trip to Greymouth, a small town on the southern island of New Zealand, a place that does not belie its name. She and Anthony were visiting son Daniel and fiancée Fiona who were doing an extended walk-about in the Antipodes, and during the visit took the opportunity to experience Pesach NZ style. This turned out to be the most bizarre event imaginable, including dishes of rice (perhaps the non-expanding variety!), and the high-light... a Punch and Judy show. Afterwards they guessed that the whole thing was a put-up job by a Jews for Jesus group; they, along with the many young Israeli travellers who participated were well and truly had...but it was hugely entertaining.

THE LIT – 1 FEBRUARY 2015 – PROFESSOR JONATHAN SECKL **EPIGENETICS AND TRANSGENERATIONAL TRAUMA**

Susie Shenkin

Over 50 people braved a freezing Februrary evening to come to the first science focussed Lit meeting. Jonathan explained he aimed to take the audience to an understanding of where genes and environment help us to understand disease and processes, especially of the brain.

He introduced the concept of 'developmental programming': changes that happen to a developing fetus before birth have long term effects, e.g. lower birth weight is associated with a higher risk of diseases such as hypertension, heart disease, depression and psychosis. He explained epigenetics as the process which explains differences in genetically identical clones, due to differences in the mechanisms which exist to turn genes on and off.

He then presented fascinating work on transgenerational trauma: in 13,000 Holocaust survivors, their children had higher rates of post traumatic stress disorder, anxiety and depression, with some effects transmitting to the second generation, but not the third generation. It is of course difficult to disentangle genetic/epigenetic reasons from the environmental consequences of such a profound event. He showed some animal models to explore this, and reached the conclusion that environmental events can affect the individual, and the zygote developing inside the individual, but not subsequent generations.

Unfortunately we did not have enough time for many questions to explore these complex ideas, and their implications. Some concepts were introduced that were novel for many of the audience, not least the large number of bar charts….the use of animal models, issues around consent and collecting data from survivors of traumatic events; lessons using post mortem studies of human brains; the large amount of human experience that can't be included in these study designs. Audience members were reflecting on the impacts their own experiences may have on subsequent generations. Future research clearly requires interdisciplinary collaboration to see if this information can add to current efforts to give every child the best chance in life. We look forward to future Lit meetings exploring ever more diverse topics, thanks to Jonathan for starting the Lit's journey on incorporating science into the programme.

THE LIT – **THE MANDELBAUM GATE** BY MURIEL SPARK DR NINA FISCHER – SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2015

Nina Fischer

David Bleiman

A stormy night on 22 February saw a hardy group enjoy a talk by Dr Nina Fischer on *Muriel Spark's 'The Mandelbaum Gate' and images of Jerusalem*.

Nina Fischer holds the Edgar Astaire (visiting) Fellowship in Jewish Studies at the University of Edinburgh and is currently working on a book on cultural representation of Jerusalem since the 19th century.

Although Muriel Spark is well known in Edinburgh, perhaps especially for *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, surprisingly few of the audience had read *The Mandelbaum Gate* and some long ago (it was published in 1965). Dr Fischer started with a helpful summary of the novel.

As she explained, this is a complex novel which she aptly described as *a game of hidden identities*. The main characters are in conflict over their own identity, especially Barbara Vaughan, a half-Jewish convert to Catholicism, whose identity issues appear to be drawn from Spark's own conflicted identity. But, working in the field of *Memory Studies*, Dr Fischer explained how she had approached the novel in terms of analysing the way in which people *reformulate space* according to their own, in this case cultural and religious, memories and beliefs. As she tracked this through analysis of the movement of the main characters through the divided Jerusalem of 1961, at the time of the Eichmann trial, she was able to reveal just how complex, subtle and insightful are the multiple images of Jerusalem in the eyes of the characters, each of whom goes through transformations as the story progresses.

Although, at least for those who did not come with a fresh reading of the

Nina Fischer with Lit President, Hannah Holtschneider

book in mind, the talk may have been a little challenging, it was livened by fresh photos of Jerusalem, taken by Dr Fischer during her recent stay, which showed how places in the book have again been reformulated, or not, on the ground.

The Mandelbaum Gate does also, it needs to be added, tell a cracking good story so that, while constantly provoked to reflect on one's own personal identity issues, the reader is carried along at sufficient pace.

Audience members

THE LIT VIEWS THE FILM 'REGINA' – 11 JANUARY

Hannah Holtschneider

On January 11th the Lit. assembled to watch the film Regina (Diana Groó 2013). The film explores the life of the first woman known to have been ordained as a rabbi. Suzie Kelpie introduced the film and spoke movingly of her uncle George Weis'z passion for the film project he produced.

With only one photograph of Rabbi Regina Jonas surviving, the film takes the viewer on a biographical journey through collages of images and film of early 20th century Berlin, soundscapes of the city and readings from Jonas' correspondence. The result is a moving testimony to this enigmatic woman which captured the audience's imagination and raised many questions about her life and work, as well as the development of the role of a female rabbi.

Rabbi Kate Briggs from Glasgow led the discussion following the film. As well as answering many questions from the audience about the history of the ordination of women and the training of rabbis, she also contributed a reflection on her own journey into the rabbinate and her experiences along the way. This personal insight was much appreciated by the audience. It also raised further questions about the development of the role of the rabbi in contemporary Jewish congregations, differences in the approach to the rabbinate for men and women, and much wider questions about Jewish unity and belonging.

What remains of this thought-provoking evening is a powerful portrait and fitting memorial to the first female rabbi and a profound insight into the life and work of women rabbis in the UK today.

Golf Report

Syd Zoltie Chairman Edinburgh Hebrew Golf Society

Weather conditions were not comparable to the Iberian Peninsula with low flying nimbus clouds and a light drizzle which refused to dampen the spirits of the golfers who took to the course at the annual Shul Tournament at the Braid Hills.

The Rheuben Zack Trophy was won by retired lawyer Spencer Kennedy and the Maccabi Cup by Eli Atad Ettedgui and Spencer for the Team Event.

The longest drive competitions were won by Maurice Griffin and Eli and the nearest to the flag by Dennis Seatter and our Japanese friend Yoshiro Oyama. The Orange Bowl Trophy was awarded to Tom Griffin.

I would like to thank Eli for organizing the event and for tirelessly rounding up all the players; it was not an easy task!

The presentation took place at the Golf Centre at the Braid Hills and everyone went home with a prize and a smile and determined to return next year.

Maurice Griffin and Brian Caine

Spencer Kennedy and Eli Atad Ettedgui

Spencer Kennedy with Syd Zoltie

Tom Griffin with Syd Zoltie

Spencer Kennedy and Eli Atad Ettedgui, David Gonshaw and Sidney Zoltie

Gladys Montgomery with Syd Zoltie

The 19th Hole!!

The Maccabi Cup

70 Days
for 70 Years

Remember the past to build the future

27 January is the day for everyone to remember the millions of people murdered in the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution and in the subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur. On Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) we honour the survivors of these attacks and challenge ourselves to use the lessons of their experiences to inform our lives today. The date of 27 January was chosen because it marks the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

Yad Vashem Hall of Names, David Shankbone

Holocaust Memorial Day 2015

Micheline Brannan

HMD was marked for the first time in Scotland in 2001 with a national ceremony at the Usher Hall, Edinburgh. As a civil servant in the newly formed Scottish Executive, I was instrumental in introducing the commemoration in Scotland and I remember how it was greeted with some scepticism and dismay – but in the end everyone recognised the rightness of the commemoration and it has annually gone from strength to strength, with Scotland now showing the way in the UK in the number and range of events being held.

This year I had the chance to attend three of the many ceremonies being held. On HMD itself, South Ayrshire Council hosted the national ceremony, at which the First Minister, the Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP, was among the speakers. On Wednesday 28 January, Boroughmuir High School held a ceremony at which young people spoke very movingly about their visit to Auschwitz, and on Thursday 29 January, a reception was held at the Scottish Parliament by Bob Doris MSP for the Association of Jewish Refugees.

In Scotland, the Scottish Interfaith Council took the lead in co-ordinating all the ceremonies and bringing international speakers to participate.

The two main speakers at all the events I attended were amazing. They toured all week and never showed any sign of fatigue. In particular Ela Weissberger is 84 and although I heard her at 4 separate events (including a Friday night dinner in Glasgow) she almost never repeated any of her stories. Hasan Hasanovich also attended the same dinner and was a good sport in participating in a purely Jewish celebration when he might have preferred a rest.

Ela Stein-Weissberger was born in 1930 in the then Sudetenland of Czechoslovakia. She fled with her mother and sister to Prague in 1938/9 after the Nazis invaded Sudetenland and her father Max Stein 'disappeared'. Together with her mother, grandmother, uncle and sister, Ela was deported to Theresienstadt – or Terezin – in 1942. This was briefly used as a 'model' camp, where the Nazis purported to show Jewish people enjoying all the activities of ordinary life including art and culture. Therefore children were trained to perform in an opera called 'Brundibar' by Hans Krasa, and Ela played the part of the cat in 55 performances. Ela is one of the few

remaining cast members still alive and has performed on Broadway and throughout the world. At the national event on 27 January, Ela not only gave a speech but also reprised her role by performing with the choir of the South Ayrshire Music Service. It was remarkable to see her up there on stage with the pupils, and she has not lost any of her performing verve.

The Star's cover shows Ela's yellow star and the number she had to wear as a Terezin inmate. Ela called her star 'my lucky star' because she survived to tell her tale. As for the number, Ela related how the artist Frederika (Friedl) Dicker-Brandeis had been an art teacher in Terezin, and one day she took a huge risk and told her pupils, "Children you are not a number, you have names. Put your names on your drawings." Defying Nazi orders that the people were only to be known by the numbers on these metal tags, the children put their names on their work. Subsequently Brandeis was able to save 4500 drawings before she was transported to her death. She put them in suitcases and gave them to Raja Englanderova who managed to survive the Holocaust. As a result, there is a legacy from at least some of the children who died (15000 were imprisoned in Terezin and less than 300 survived). These drawings are now housed in the Jewish Museum in Prague.

After the War, Ela lost her Czech citizenship for not joining the Communist Party and she went on Aliyah, where she met her husband. He was an officer in the Israeli Army and she was doing her national service. The romance began when she was hitchhiking with her friend and the officer gave them a lift. Afterwards he asked to see her again; they got married and had 2 children. Ela's daughter was with her on her tour of Scotland and accompanies her on her travels all over the world. Ela and her family now live in the USA.

Hasan Hasanovich was born in 1975 and when the Bosnian Serbs began massacring the Bosnian Muslims in 1992, he and his family were forced to move to Srebrenica which had been designated a 'Safe Area' by the United Nations. It proved to be anything but safe. The Serbian forces laid siege and the UN forces were powerless to prevent a massacre or did not try very hard. Many were killed at Srebrenica but Hasan, along with other family members, escaped and participated in a 6 day death march during which his father, uncle and twin brother were killed. Hasan, alone of the male members of his family, and after horrendous privations, managed to reach the safe territory of Tuzla. Eventually after forensic anthropologists investigated the mass graves of Srebrenica victims, the family were able to hold funerals for their dead. Today Hasan is both a curator and interpreter for the Srebrenica-Potočari Cemetery and Memorial Centre.

The chemistry between Ela and Hasan was one of the delights of the rather grim HMD commemorations. The fact that both have survived with sense of humour intact, and are able to turn their sufferings into an educational force for today's young people, is a great tribute to the human spirit.

On 17 February, EHC had the privilege of hosting Rabbi Moshe Rubin of Giffnock and Newlands Synagogue, who spoke about the '70 Days for 70 Years' project. Rabbi Rubin's wife Hadassah is the grand-daughter of a Holocaust survivor. Her grandfather – a Rabbi from Poland – was on shlichut in the USA when WW2 broke out. He sent tickets for his wife and children to join him but it was too late for them to get away and they perished. He spent 7 years after the war ended trying to get news of their fate and eventually was given permission to remarry and found a new family. Rabbi Rubin feels he owes his own family life to this tragedy, giving him a very personal connection to the Holocaust. Rabbi Rubin spoke about the theme of time and the importance of making every day matter. Raymond Taylor chaired the event and Rabbi Rose welcomed Rabbi Rubin and gave a vote of thanks.

Myrna Barnard, with guests from Glasgow

Dr Alan Shenkin views the Gathering the Voices Exhibition

The First Minister, the Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP (right side of table), joins the speakers in lighting memorial candles

Provost of South Ayrshire, Helen Moonie, welcomes the AJR to the Gathering the Voices Exhibition

Marion Camrass and Renate Mckay

BOROUGHMUIR HIGH SCHOOL CEREMONY

Ela Stein-Weissberger, survivor of Terezin, speaks about her experiences.

Councillor Elaine Aitken.

Rabbi Rose reflected on how religious Jews maintained their faith even in the camps. He followed this by singing some lines from 'Avinu Malkeinu'.

Mr Phil Cifelli, Depute Head Teacher, introduces the event.

Hasan Hasanovich, survivor of Bosnian Muslim Genocide, describes the massacre of Srebrenica.

Head of History, James Thomson (right), introduces Iain Stewart, EIFA, to give the vote of thanks.

Irena Winfield talks on the 1915 Armenian Genocide.

Ishbel Strathdee, Jan Krajewski and Douglas Dunlop presented on the Rwandan Genocide, with particular emphasis on subsequent reconciliation.

Speakers line up to light the memorial lights.

Pupils Alice Aitken and Rebecca Frew give a presentation on their visit to Auschwitz.

Pupil Clara Warshow researched the experiences of her great grandmother's cousin, Mary Feinberg, who survived the death march from Treblinka.

Pupil Grigory Matyunin, who played Brahms 'Intermezzo', waits for his turn to light.

Ela Stein-Weissberger leads the lighting of the memorial lights.

RABBI RUBIN TALK AT EHC ON 70 DAYS FOR 70 YEARS 17 FEB

Rabbi Moshe Rubin addressed EHC's introductory event for '70 Days for 70y Years' on 17 February.

Rabbi Rose thanked Rabbi Rubin for his attendance.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT RECEPTION

AJR mermbers Halina Moss and Marianne Laszlo.

AJR members at the Scottish Parliament.

Bob Doris MSP.

The Association of Jewish Refugees at the Scottish Parliament.

One of the 70 memorial candles designed by Anish Kapoor for HMD 2015.

Olivia Marks-Woldman, Chief Executive of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust.

Henry Wuga talks about his time in the Kindertransport and his life in Scotland

Hasan Hasanovich (L) with AJR guests.

Olivia Marks-Woldman with Maureen Seir, Chief Executive of the Scottish Interfaith Council.

Ela Weissberger chats to Humza Yousaf, MSP. Minister for External Affairs and International Development.

Sukkat Shalom: news and events

Claudette Hudes

For complete information, please visit our website at **www.eljc.org**

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF SUKKAT SHALOM!

18 ELUL 5774 – 13TH SEPTEMBER 2014

We celebrated the Tenth Anniversary of the establishment of our Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community with a special Shabbat Morning Service.

Among our many guests were representatives of the Edinburgh Interfaith Association and several leaders of other Faith Communities in Edinburgh and beyond. Our own Liberal Judaism Chief Executive, Rabbi Danny Rich, also joined us for this momentous day!

After the Service we held a special Kiddush to which everyone was invited. In the evening we held a celebratory Ceilidh with very enthusiastic dancing to a mixture of Scottish and Yiddish music. We were further entertained by the beautiful and mellifluous singing of our Rabbi, Mark Solomon and by Lobo Chan.

A special Anniversary cake was made by one of our members. The evening was much enjoyed by all present – a true celebration!

10th Anniversary Cake

Enjoying the Dancing

Enjoying the lovely food!

Danny and Friends watching the dancing!

Nancy Lynner with the Big Bear and a younger member

Big Bear and friends!

BURNS NIGHT CEILIDH

Burns and the Knights of Roslin: Kinship and Ceilidh, Kinship Advice and Advocacy Provision and Sukkat Shalom

FESTIVAL OF SUKKOT

For the third year we were able to use the Sukkah which was produced in pre-formed kit, made by two of our members last year.

Members arrive early to erect the Sukkah.

Building the Sukkah

Sukkah Completed

Members and Friends in the Sukkah making Kiddush

Members admiring the Sukkah

Finishing Kiddush

SUKKAT SHALOM CHANUKAH

Playing the Dreidl Game

Pass the Parcel Chanukah Style

MAZEL TOV TO OUR MEMBERS:

SUE LIEBERMAN'S BOOK LAUNCH

Sue's *After Genocide* had its launch in January at Blackwell's. Presenting the book, Sue described its development and scope.

Among our many guests was Sue Lieberman, introduced by Liz Bondi, Professor of Counselling and Psychotherapy.

HANNAH FROM OUR CHEDER

Hannah is the fastest junior swimmer in the Cupar and District Swimming Club.

MIRIAM VICKERS PRINTS

Miriam Vickers' prints shown in the Royal Scottish Academy (RSA) Open Submission Art Exhibition and the Society of Scottish Artists (SSA) Art Exhibition, held in Glasgow during November and December.

Orkney Landscape, at the Royal Society of Scottish Artists Annual Exhibition
Scottish Academy Open Exhibition

View From The Croft, Orkney Isles
Winner of the Scottish Art Club Prize

INTRODUCING:

INTRODUCING: DAN HERSHON: THE CHEDER TEACHER FROM HALTWHISTLE

Daniel Hershon is the newest and fifth member of staff in our fastgrowing cheder.

Six and seven year olds, who last year were making Hebrew letters in play dough, will be moving on to reading sounds and syllables with Dan this term.

AU REVOIR BUT NOT ADIEU

It is time to say goodbye to two of our founding members, Julia and Malcolm Merrick, who are moving to St Albans. Julia writes:

We are looking forward to enjoying sunshine and seeing more of our extensive family. We have already been spending about a week a month in St Albans, love the town and are active in the Arch and Arch — Architecture and Archaeology — Society.

We will miss the hills and art galleries and of course the friends we have made over forty years. We will miss the Lit too, and we have been members of ELJC since it was founded.

We hope this will be au revoir and not adieu.

Julia and Malcolm on the beach in California

The Star also says good-bye and good luck to Julia and Malcolm. Julia is a former editor of the Star and was a regular contributor, while Malcolm's photographs have often illustrated the publication, the latest such occasion being the report of the Lit's 125th anniversary symposium, to be found on the website: **www.edinburghstar.info**

The couple will be much missed.

Mazel Tov

Mazal Tov to **Janet Mundy** on her 60th birthday in May.

The Star congratulates **Alec Rubenstein** on his 98th birthday. Alec has asked us to say thank you in the Star for the cards, flowers and good wishes that he received from his friends and from members of the community during his recent illness.

Mazal Tov to **Reuben Ogilvie** on his Bar Mitzvah on 30th May.

Miriam Vickers has been awarded the Scottish Art Club prize 2014.

Fay and **Max Dorfman** on their Diamond Wedding.

Rabbi Rose on his 50th Birthday.

Mazal tov to **Connor Finlay** on his Bar Mitzvah on 28th March 2015.

Mazal tov to **Irene** and **David Hyams** with HM The Queen's congratulations on Diamond Wedding.

Thank you

Sandra and **Sidney Caplan** would like to thank all their family and friends for their good wishes cards and flowers on the occasion of their golden wedding.

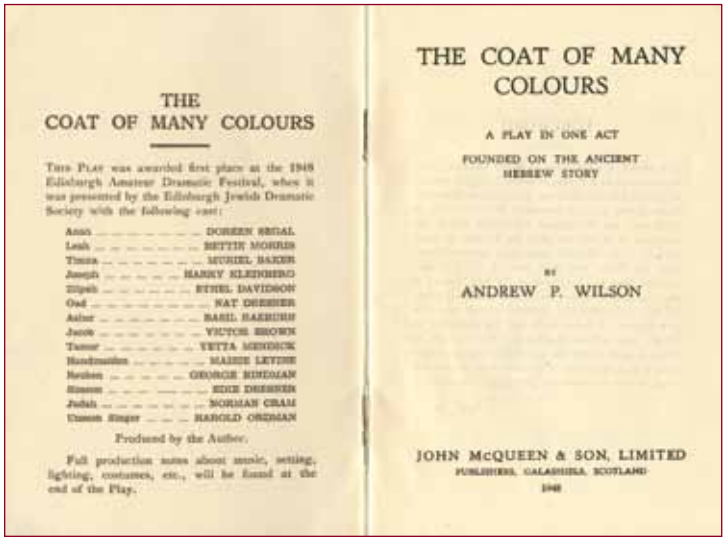
The Coat of Many Colours

Harvey Kaplan, Director

The Scottish Jewish Archives Centre has recently received an interesting booklet sent by Rivka Hirsch of Jerusalem.

Readers may remember that Rivka's late father was the Rev. Sam Knopp, who arrived in Edinburgh in 1972 to take up an appointment as Chazan of the congregation and later succeeded Rabbi Dr Weinberg as minister. He retired in 1982, moving to Jerusalem, where he died in 1986.

Rivka sent us a copy of a one-act play, *The Coat of Many Colours* by Andrew P Wilson, published in Galashiels in 1948 at the price of 1 shilling and 6 pence (7.5p). The play was performed by the Edinburgh Jewish Dramatic Society, who were awarded first place at the Edinburgh Amateur Dramatic Festival in 1948.



THE
COAT OF MANY COLOURS

THE COAT OF MANY COLOURS

A PLAY IN ONE ACT

FOUNDED ON THE ANCIENT HEBREW STORY

BY

ANDREW P. WILSON

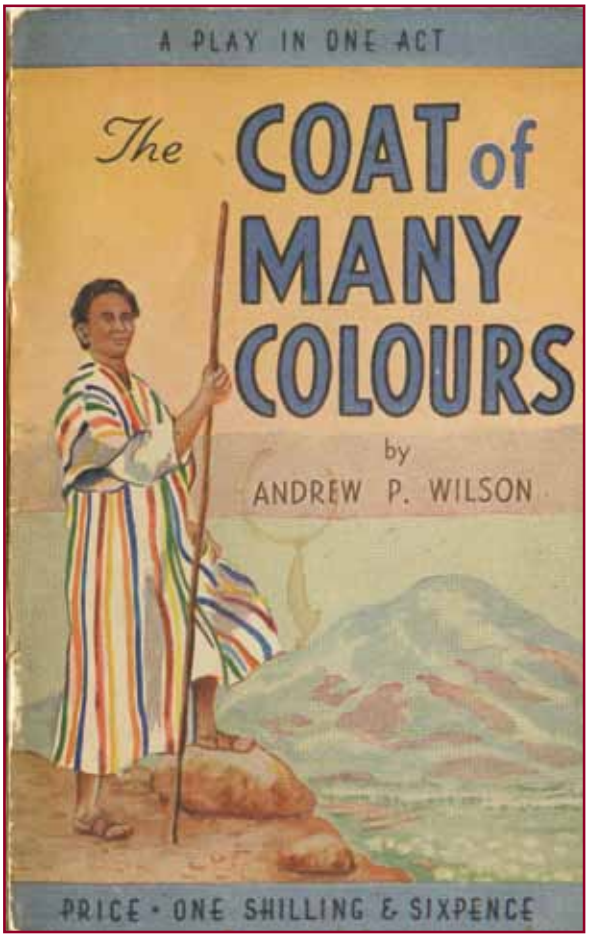
JOHN McQUEEN & SON, LIMITED

The cast is listed in the booklet as:

Doreen Segal
Betty Morris
Muriel Baker
Harry Kleinberg
Ethel Davidson
Nat Dresner
Basil Raeburn
Victor Brown
Yetta Mendick
Maisie Levine
George Bindman
Edie Dresner
Norman Cram
Harold Ordman

The Revd Samuel Knopp

Do any Star readers remember this performance?



REFUGEES

The Archives Centre has now completed a feasibility study looking at the setting up of a Scottish Holocaust–era Study Centre as an adjunct of the Archives Centre. This will allow our fast-growing collections from this period to be accessed by a wider audience and to shed light on the impact of the Holocaust on the Jewish community in Scotland and on Scottish society in general.

If you are interested in seeing our feasibility study report, or if you have material relating to refugees in Scotland, please contact us at:

info@sjac.org.uk

0141 649 4526

We are particularly interested in information about Jewish refugees who came to Edinburgh.

If you recognise any familiar faces in the photograph on the right please submit their names to the Editor.

Photo supplied by Joyce Cram

Down memory Lane

Photo supplied by Sidney Caplan

Macabi Dance 1950's

Left to right:
Morris Brodie
Nan Brodie
Sheva Lurie
Joe Lurie
Dolly Bierman
Maurice Bierman

BOOK REVIEW

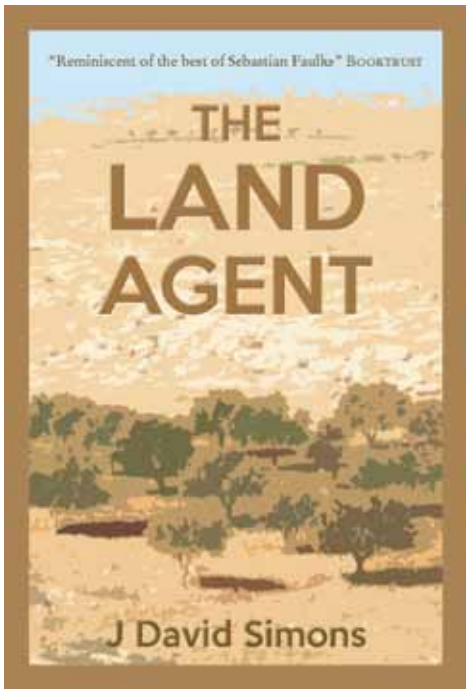
David Simons
The Land Agent

An Evening with the Jewish Book Group at Nancy's

Elaine Samuel

Snow was falling over Arthur's Seat as the Jewish Book Group gathered itself into the warmth and comfort of Nancy Lynner's home to talk land, ownership and water in Mandate Palestine. This month's novel? J David Simon's *The Land Agent*, the last in his Glasgow to Galilee trilogy.

The Book Group had already read The Credit Draper, the story of a Jewish peddlar set in the Gorbals and the Highlands at the turn of the last century. It had also read the second book in the series, *The Liberation of Celia Kahn*, the story of a young Jewish woman's education into radicalism, feminism, the birth control movement and, ultimately, into socialist Zionism, which was set in Glasgow during the First World War.



And so, in the third book of the trilogy, we find Celia again, but now in post-World War I Palestine, with a group of pioneers setting up a kibbutz not far from where the River Jordan exits the Sea of Galilee/Kinneret. The challenge facing these chalutzim? How to water their stony and parched land. The problem? How to convey water from the Jordan and its tributaries over a small area that was settled on by Bedouin but not legally owned by anyone. Indeed, the land in question appeared not even to have been identified on any map. It is here that Lev Sela (formerly Gottlieb), a young immigrant from Poland and 'land agent' for PICA, the Palestine Jewish Colonisation Association, steps into the breach.

My task might not have been as physicially demanding as those facing the chalutzim, but it was as taxing an assignment as my Dear Editor has ever handed down to me: to portray the discussion of the Jewish Book Group while, at the same time, not letting my own thoughts intrude (unduly). Indeed, it is a moot point as to whether a collective point of view is even possible in a Jewish Book Group. But we did achieve a consensus on a number of fronts. It was agreed that it was a good and easy read: an easy read because the narrative moved forward very smoothly; and a good read because Mandate Palestine in the 1920s was a place and era about which Book Group members knew little and wanted to know more. Members of the Book Group identified many well observed scenes, which had the capacity for drawing them into the narrative. They were also stimulated by what they felt to be the main questions raised by the book. How can land be said to be 'owned'? Isn't the relationship of the Bedouin to the land a more 'natural' and healthy approach? How can we address the bitter strife over land ownership? Or can one only survive by ignoring the issue? Indeed, one of the main characters of the novel, another land agent working for PICA, lives in a house that looks out on the sea, perhaps because "*he was sick of all the squabbling over territory*."

In a way that I cannot reveal, for fear of it being a 'spoiler', The Land Agent juxtaposes the Scottish Highlands with Palestine, "*to walk on a land that is free.... Who owns that loch down there? And that stream?...I do not know.....I do not care.....The land is not for the ownership but for the enjoyment and appreciation*." And this is where my own thoughts cannot help but break out. Someone is insistently whispering into my ears; "*Clearances, clearances*." And something is telling me that land is not just about enjoyment and appreciation but also about physical sustenance, security and identity. And when they are on the agenda, things can get bitter whether you are in the Straths of Sutherland or in the Jordan Valley. So I would add to the Book Group's characterisation of *The Land Agent* as a good read. It's a good read because it's a provocative read.

Obituaries

Dr Berl Osborne

Clarice Osborne

Berl was born in Edinburgh in St Patrick's Square on the 4th of October 1923. He had three elder sisters and was the youngest boy for an older brother died at the age of 6 years.

He was brought up by his doting parents and his three sisters. He first came in to the Oppenheim family at the age of ten when he went to Heriots School and was seated alphabetically next to my brother Nate because both their names started with "O". They became firm friends and spent every Shabbat together, the morning in Shul and the afternoon in each other's homes.

Berl was blessed with a fine brain and he went to Edinburgh University to study medicine in "My son the Doctor" era. He qualified in 1945, did a 6 month house job in Boscombe and then went into the army and was sent to Trieste for 2 years as Captain Ostrovsky of the Scots Guards. On returning to Edinburgh he found the little schoolgirl he had left behind had grown up,… our friendship blossomed and we were married in 1950.

Berl went into General Practice in London a hard life in these days seeing a hundred patients a day in the surgery, home visits and night calls. He eventually became senior partner in a busy London practice. But medicine was not his only interest, he had a great love of music especially opera. We enjoyed many opera holidays in Prague, Budapest and New York. He was no tenor but he loved to sing and as a young boy he sang in Chazan Levinson's choir and latterly with David Mendelssohn.

History was another interest especially Jewish History. We had a wonderful trip with the Spiro Institute to Jewish Spain. Politics was another interest and after an evening at the theatre we would pass the Houses of Parliament on our way home and go to the Strangers Gallery to hear the debate.

He loved writing and public speaking putting a lot of time into researching his subject. In London we joined a literary society attached to the Shul. Berl quickly became Chairman and as his reputation for public speaking grew there was hardly a Barmitzvah or wedding at which he was not called upon to propose a Toast. Shul has always played an important part of our lives and Berl was Chairman of the Hebrew classes in South London.

In 1985 we retired to Hove where we lived for 10 years and again Berl became Chairman of the discussion group where many retired erudite people presented papers. He had a most retentive memory and could recite reams of Shakespeare.

Israel played an important part in our lives and we visited almost every year. Berl loved travelling and once he had retired we went to the Far East, Australia and New Zealand, India, South Africa, America several times and Canada along with many European cities. Berl always said that we should travel while we were fit to make memories and look at the photos when we grew old.

In 1995 we returned to Edinburgh to my family and we had some good years, but latterly as you know Berl's health declined. Berl was an intelligent educated erudite man. Shul and Yiddishkeit was always an important part of Berl's life. One of his happiest days was on his second Bar Mitzvah when he said Maftir and gave a D'var Torah in the shul where he had his first Bar Mitzvah. He was Chasan Bereishit in London, Hove and Edinburgh. Bereishit was his Bar Mitzvah maftir and indeed so it was on the Shabbat before our wedding. He made the Seder service become very special researching stories and special pieces of interest apposite to the Haggadah readings.

We were a great couple. I was the practical one and he was the brains. He loved company and was delighted to have friends to his home. I would cook the meal while he would think up controversial subjects for conversation. He had a little list in his pocket which amused Carole greatly when she spotted him looking at it.

In his walk through life he made many close friends with whom we have kept in touch in London, Hove and Edinburgh. In the Perkei Ovos Rabbi Shiman said there are three crowns. The crown of the Torah. The crown of Priesthood. The crown of Kingship, but the crown of a good name surpasses them all. To Berl that was most important and he had just that: a good name.

We were fortunate to have 63 years of happy marriage with rarely a cross word. We celebrated our Silver Wedding in London our Ruby Wedding in Hove and our Golden wedding in Edinburgh. By the time of our Diamond wedding Berl really was not well enough for a big celebration. Berl was kind and gentle, a true gentleman a caring and loving husband whom I shall miss until the end of my days.

Rose Newman

Hannah Newman and Leonard Berger

Born in Orwell Place, Dalry, on 31 January 1944 to mother Sarah and father Bernard.

She went to Orwell Primary and then got into Boroughmuir through having good marks.

She was brought up in the Jewish faith and went to cheder every week and could read Hebrew well from an early age.

She left Edinburgh and lived for over 10 years in England due to her husband, Andrew, being in the prison service. She made friends wherever she went and was still in touch with them now.

Her daughter Hannah was born in 1973 and was brought up in Edinburgh. She was very proud of her and they had a close relationship.

She not only brought up her daughter Hannah but also her niece and nephew, Derek and Angela, from the ages of 8 and 10 and was devastated when her brother Ronnie died. She managed to raise three children whilst at the same time holding down a full time job and showing property in the evening. She certainly was a hard working woman.

She had a number of jobs throughout her career. From around 1976, she joined Stewart Saunders Estate Agent. Throughout this time she became a director and was a vital part of the team, selling numerous houses and developments and gained many friends, many of whom attended the funeral.

She enjoyed her retirement and found many forms of dancing - she made new groups of friends and spent many a fun night in the Jam House dancing till the early hours! She also had weekends away dancing!

Her most happy moment was when her grandchild was born - Samuel. He is now four. Rose treasured her grandson and looked after him well throughout her time with him.

She spent her last few years with her partner Walter in her home in Bellevue.

Rose did a lot of charity work. In the old Communal Hall we put on quite a number of musicals for Maccabi. On several occasions we entertained the residents of a Cheshire home, where we received a very warm welcome. I remarked to Rose it was like putting on an E.N.S.A SHOW. Where she remarked yes Every Night Something Awful.

But it was in the Marian Oppenheim Hall, that I received great help from Rose, and of course dear Norma Brodie. There was a script, but no music to it. So the three of us got together over a piano and we worked for several weeks and thanks to a magnificent cast, Carmen Cohen was ready for take off. Kate Goodwin and her staff of ladies made sure everyone was well fed and with a raffle took one thousand pounds for charity.

The following year we put on "TAKEOVER" by Alf Fogel, who came up from London to see his show. He was delighted by everyone who participated. Again we drew one thousand pounds for W.I.Z.O. After that we put on MINE FAIR SADIE for the chaplaincy board and a mini bus came from Glasgow to see the show.

Thank you Rose most sincerely for the hard work and effort and your musical skill in helping to make all this possible.

We will not forget your lovely smile and good nature and chein that only you had.

Estelle Shabetai

Matthew Allen (brother)

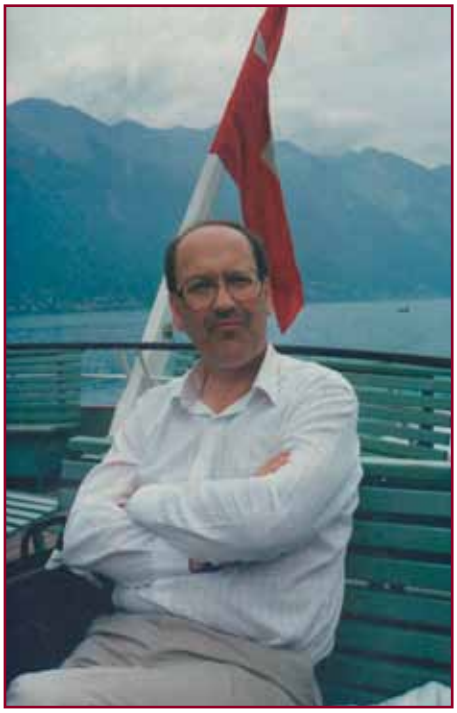
Estelle Shabetai passed away peacefully August 24 in San Diego California.

Estelle Allen Shabetai was born in Edinburgh on December 2nd 1928, the daughter of the late William and Clara Allen, the sister of Matthew Allen (Marcia) of Palo Alto California and Fiona Director (Shraga) of Petach Tikva Israel. She was the widow of Dr Ralph Shabetai. She is survived by two sons, a daughter and six grand children. She graduated with a MA degree from the University of Edinburgh. She and her husband emigrated to the USA in 1956.

David Capitanchik

Danny Capitanchik

Professor David Bernard Capitanchik may have been born in London, but his heart was in Israel from a very young age.



A member of Habonim from 8 years old, Zionism was in his blood and when my father reached 18, he travelled to Israel joining Kibbutz Gal Ed and, later, Amiad where he was a member for ten years. When called to the IDF, he did not hesitate to stand up for his beliefs, serving as a battle nurse, caring for and fighting alongside those who shared his passion for the state of Israel. He returned to England to work on a Jewish youth project where he met his wife Helen, who belonged to a youth group YPZ. They were married in 1959 and were married for 55 years. After a brief return together to Isreal, where my father exercised his command of languages as a translator, they returned to England.

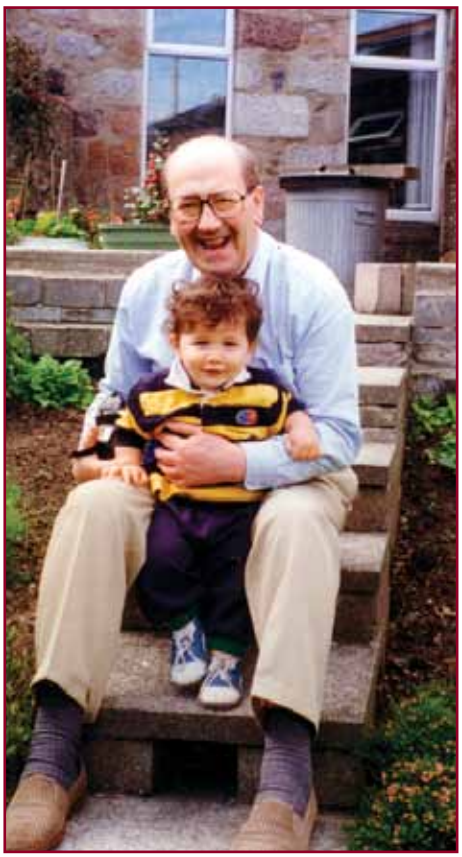
Studying politics, he went on to teach a new generation of politicians and soldiers. However, this was no dry academic exercise. My father had lived the politics of the Middle East and, as such, was able to explain and animate it in a way which few others could. At the risk of sounding cliched, in his hands, the pen was truly mightier than the sword and his opinion became valued, both in this country and in his beloved Israel.

Based in Scotland, he returned to Israel on a regular basis, engaging in research and continuing to play an active role in the country which he loved. Unlike many academics, my father was a participant rather than a spectator, but then he was far from an ordinary man. Those who were lucky enough to meet him were struck as much by his humour, unassuming nature and genuine compassion as by his intellect, analytical ability and integrity.

In his time, my father brushed shoulders with generals and statesmen as well as shop assistants and street cleaners. He treated each with equal respect and there is a lesson there for us all.

Later in his career, my father also became a broadcaster, allowing his insight to reach a whole new audience at home and abroad. However, despite remaining a passionate Zionist, his radio and television appearances were fair, balanced and, above all else, downright entertaining.

Indeed, his wit and charm saw him become quite sought after, as an after dinner speaker, at countless business and formal events throughout the country. Despite embracing many traditions, my father was also a very forward thinking man. As far back as the late nineties, he



foresaw the use of the internet to spread hate and terrorism when most of his contemporaries were just getting to grips with the first emails. Once again, great insight and wisdom was delivered in his typically gentle manner.

David Capitanchik was many things; a Zionist, a soldier, an academic and a broadcaster. However, he was also an amazing father and a dearly loved grandfather. We will miss him very deeply and his proud memory will live on in our hearts.

Forthcoming Events

Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation

Friday 3 April Communal Seder at 4 Salisbury Road

Saturday 4 April and Sunday 5 April First 2 Yamim Tovim of Pesach

Friday 10 April and Saturday 11 April Last 2 Yamim Tovim of Pesach

Thursday 16 April Yom Hashoah in Peace Park, Princes Street Gardens, 18.45

Thursday 23 April Yom Ha'Atzmaut

Sunday 3 or Sunday 17 May Community Centre Coffee Morning

Saturday 23 May at night Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Sunday 24 May and Monday 25 May Shavuot

Sunday 5 July Fast of Tammuz

Sunday 26 July Fast of Tisha Be'av

Sunday 6 September JCC pre-Yom Tov coffee morning

Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 September Rosh Hashanah

Tuesday 22 September Kol Nidrei

Wednesday 23 September Yom Kippur

Monday 28 September Succot

Saturday 6 December JCC Chanukah dinner and 1st candle

Shabbat morning services take place every week at 10.00am in the Synagogue at 4 Salisbury Road.

Community Centre Committee events take place in the Marian Oppenheim Hall, Jewish Community Centre, 4 Salisbury Road.

Further details, including time and ticket price where applicable, will be circulated for each event nearer the time.

The Luncheon Club meets every Tuesday (meat) and Thursday (fish) at 12.30. New volunteers and/or helpers always welcome.

Contact Avril Berger t: 0131 664 2938
email: avril.berger@btinternet.com

Lodge Solomon – 2015 dates

20th April	Dinner
10th May	Divine Service
16th November	Dinner
21st December	Dinner

The Star would like to thank the photographers for this edition. While many people have contributed photographs especial thanks are due to Judy Gilbert who tirelessly attends events with her camera, and Tom Griffin who photographed the golf tournament and the Chanukah events.

Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society

See **www.ejls.org** for details of AGM and future meetings.

Sukkat Shalom

Services

Erev Shabbat service will be on the **SECOND** Friday (7 pm) of each calendar month. Shabbat morning services are on the Saturday (11am) after the FOURTH Friday. These services take place in:

Columcille Centre, 2 Newbattle Terrace.

Kabbalat Shabbat Services (6.15pm) will be on the FIRST and THIRD Fridays. These services take place at:

Marchmont St Giles, 2a Kilgraston Road.

We also have a Tea and Talmud group – to coincide with Rabbi Mark Solomon's visits, in members' homes, and a Philosophy Discussion Group.

For further information go to our website and follow the link to the diary:

www.eljc.org